

SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 4 Issue 10

1 April 2002



The Former Phoenix Masonic Temple - Simon's Town

April Sponsor - Dr Reg Loxton

The Former Phoenix Masonic Temple Simon's Town

In the year 1879 only two Masonic Lodges with a Charter from the Grand Lodge of England existed in Cape Town. But at this time a number of zealous freemasons in the Naval Port of Simon's Town agreed to apply to the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant to establish a Lodge to be situated in Simon's Town. Thus, Phoenix Lodge No 1860 of Free and Accepted Freemasons of England came into being in this part of the World.

A record of the first meetings held indicate that they took place in the Main Street, Simon's Town in the year 1880 - in a room above Bob White's Grocer & Baker Shop. This venue was their meeting place for the next ten years.

In October 1892 it was proposed to purchase (for £750) the building known as the "Salvation Army Home". This particular building was earlier known as "Smuggler's Den" - later to be used as the Customs House. The original walls were some two feet thick! The Phoenix Temple was subsequently built by adding a storey to the existing first floor. The Phoenix Lodge No 1860 Temple building was then consecrated in May 1900 on this site. For the next 79 years The Phoenix Lodge became an important and integral part in the life of Simon's Town and in service to her peoples. In the Great War of 1914/18, several Brethren were called to Higher Service aboard HMS Bulwark and HMS Pegasus: whilst in 1917 the Lodge welcomed the ship's company of HMS Britannia: HMS Hyacinth and HMS Astaea, all whilst in Port.

The following years witnessed the brethren of the Lodge quietly going about their Masonic duties and in particular, charity fundraising for the Town. Simon's Town Hospital in those days was more than once chief beneficiary of their endeavours until Brethren were once again called into action to serve their country in World War II 1939/45.

In 1977, due to the expansion of the South African Naval Dockyard, the Lodge was obliged to move to Glencairn. In October 2002 the Masonic Lodge will celebrate 123 years in existence.

**Source Material
compiled by FM Lambert
from records and book held
Phoenix Lodge 1860 EC
100 years**

Editorial

At this writing (Sunday 24-pm) I can report that I was present at the official launch of the SA Navy Festival - an impressive parade and march-past marking the annual "Freedom of the City" ceremony. Good to be part of Simon's Town on such an occasion - even the goose-stepping by a South American squad came as a welcome surprise.

Now, a serious and contentious matter: the formation of a Section 21 Company. Let me put this issue in perspective:

In about May of 2001, at a committee meeting of the Simon's Town Civic Association (STCA) I proposed the formation of a Section 21 Co as a means of raising money for important community needs and projects. Paid parking on Jubilee Square was one of the fundraising projects. The proposal did not receive support from the Committee and I took this sentiment as a rejection. I subsequently made the same proposal at a meet-

ing of the Community Police Forum; the proposal received unanimous support and Tony Robinson was delegated to assist me in the investigation and implementation. The Jubilee Square parking scheme and related matters are documented in the editorial of the July 2001 issue of Snoektown Calling.

As investigations proceeded, including a thorough study of a similar and highly successful project in the CBD of Cape Town, it became clear that the whole matter (Section 21 Co included) really belonged to our CBD and hence the Simon's Town Business Association (STBA). A local attorney was then commissioned to proceed with the draft of the required memorandum and articles of association, the standard legal requirements for the setting up of a Section 21 Co.



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This process was put on hold when I discovered by chance that the STCA had in the meantime changed their minds regarding a fund-raising programme including the Section 21 Co; indeed, a Fish Hoek attorney had been commissioned to undertake the legal requirements and a second revised draft of the memorandum and articles of association had already been produced - copy of which came to hand - again by chance.

Now, there appears to be much argument and debate among members of STCA as regards the purpose and efficacy of the Section 21 Co. In this issue of Snoektown Calling, Wilf Nussey, in the report of the STCA, specifically records as follows:

March 13

"The Committee already has a mandate from the AGM last July, to form a Section 21 Company."

Well, I was present at that meeting and I cannot recall a mandate being given by the members present. In any event, procedural precedent required that a matter of such importance, which would require a vote, would need to be motivated in writing in advance of the AGM, together with notice of meeting, agenda and other important documentation. If my understanding of the situation is correct, then I would suggest that the Committee is totally out of bounds.

Reg Loxton
Editor

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Down the Historical Mile

At the 22 March meeting of SLAP there was quite a fuss which began with Stoffel Boesman waving a copy of The People's Post in the air, and shouting: Mr Chairman, this is completely crazy, and an insult to our town.

Well, what Stoffel was referring to was the programme of the Great Dane parade on April Fool's Day, and he read out in a loud voice as follows:

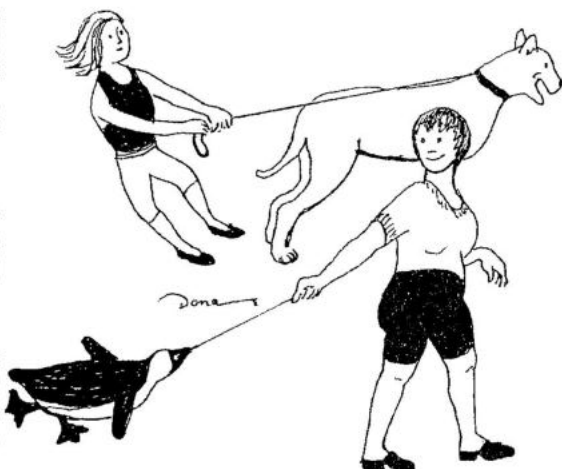
"On Monday 1 April at 3pm a Parade of Great Danes, led by the Band of the SA Navy will proceed from Simon's Town Museum to Jubilee Square. Great Danes will be judged at the Museum at 2pm.

3:30pm: Parade will arrive at Jubilee Square;
3:45pm: Tribute & commemoration to the famous Great Dane, Able Seaman Just Nuisance;
4pm: Blessing of the Great Danes; 4:15pm: Prizes for Just Nuisance Look-alike, Least-like Just Nuisance and Miss Just Nuisance."

Now, Mr Chairman, I was a schoolboy in Simon's Town in the '40s and I can tell you, that dog was an absolute pest and the community sometimes wished it could be put away. And all those stories about how clever he was, is a lot of nonsense.

Mientjie Boep-pens argued: so what if the Museum want to use the dog to promote Simon's Town as a tourist destination? Harold Hardekop suggested: well why don't we use the penguins? A lot of people come to see the penguins, and the Boulders is the only place in the Western Cape where one can see the penguins in comfort.

Great idea, said Wingnut Williams, then we can have a penguin parade, with penguins, just like the dogs - Navy Band and all. Clara Fijnbosch had a better idea and proposed a Penguin Race, from the Museum to Jubilee Square. But penguins won't walk on a lead, complained Schulz.



I have the answer, said Wingnut. We tie a string through the gills of a pilchard and the attendant drags the pilchard in front of the penguin; the bird is sure to follow. Mientjie had a problem: what if the bird swallows the pilchard? No problem, replied Wingnut: the attendant continues to pull the string, and the bird, not wanting to lose the fish, will continue to follow at pace, as fast as it can run; so we have a proper race, better than a parade. And as for prizes, we could have:

First - winner of the race:

Second - bird that conforms most closely to the ideal specification for the species:

Third - bird on parade that conforms least to the specifications.

Prizes:

1. One week's holiday at Riemvasmaak, the new capital of the Koi Homeland.
2. Two weeks' holiday at Riemvasmaak.
3. Three weeks' holiday at Riemvasmaak.

These are for the winning penguins and their attendants.

It was clear that SLAP was very happy with the result of the meeting; it had really been creative.

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Simon's Town Civic Association

4 March

Citizen of the Year

The STCA has revived this practice by popular demand after it had lapsed for several years. The applause was tumultuous when it went to Mrs Cindy Dollery, who runs the Happy Valley Home in the old arsenal and magazine buildings up Waterfall Road.

It was thoroughly deserved. Mrs Dollery has for years with little fuss or fanfare supported the poor and destitute and helped them to get back on their feet, a daunting and sometimes depressing task she has done with extraordinary compassion, cheer and dedication. Her efforts, backed by donations, have saved hundreds of people, including many children and entire families, from abject misery and worse.

Water

Dr John Morris said the quality of both tapwater and seawater has been generally high with some fluctuation. Anyone having problems with domestic water should phone Mr Serfontein of the city health department at 7891366.

Signage

The city has only two inspectors in this region to monitor the application of the new laws governing signage. If anyone wants to query the placing of any public sign, please phone Dr Morris at 7861765.

Roads and Drainage

Dirk van Niekerk said winter's very heavy rains caused the many recurrent potholes and the high water table delayed repairs, but the municipal teams did an excellent job. Potholes and other road complaints can be telephoned to Mr Chris Mayo's office at 7855467 where they will be recorded for

textures

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following up.

Glencairn Vlei

Much progress has been made in rehabilitating the vlei thanks to Glencairn residents, municipal and other officials and environmental groups. Anyone wanting to join the newly-formed Glencairn Wetland Conservation Group should call Mrs Jacky Weaver at 7825335.

Property

For years the STCA has monitored property dealings in Greater Simon's Town to make sure they are in order. Now come radically higher valuations based on land plus improvements. Next step is for the city council to set the new rates - decide how much you will pay for each rand of value. To find out how much the city thinks your property is worth, and what to do about it, you can phone 4158460, see the draft roll at the Fish Hoek civic centre or go to the website "www.capetown.gov.za/valuation".

Law Enforcement

City law enforcement officers were moved to Fish Hoek and were unreachable because they did not have direct phones. Now they do: phone them from 8am to 5pm at 7821124-6 and from 5-10pm through their Muizenberg office at 7881148, or fax to 7820898.

Finance

The STCA started 2001 with R6 650 and after R10 473 in expenses ended the year with R16 008 thanks to a healthy rise in membership. To know if you are paid up call Treasurer Ian Allan at 7822736.

Old Municipal Buildings

The library has moved into the ground floor of the main building. Its former quarters are vacant, as are the rest of the main building, the large room above the garage, and the adjacent block previously occupied by the engineering department. We want to retain all this space for the community's use! If you have ideas how, please put them into writing and leave them at the library for Al-

HEATHER LUNDERSTEDT ESTATES cc

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derman Nicki Holderness.

Cape Peninsula National Park

A major National Parks internal reshuffle has created management units with emphasis on operation and delivery. Alien clearing is well on track. The CPNP's over 800 km of footpaths are being mapped and upgraded. Firefighting units are being moved south from Newlands for quicker action.

Section 21 Company

The STCA was mandated at its AGM last year to go ahead with this fundraising and administration vehicle but some members still have their doubts about it. The STCA invites suggestions on its membership and direction. Send to PO Box 47, Simon's Town 7995, attention Jacky Weaver.

Jubilee Square

There was lengthy debate about the change by municipal officials to the master traffic plan for Simon's Town to enable tour buses to park on Jubilee Square - two for 45 min-

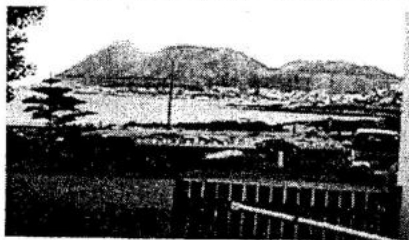
utes and one to disembark.

Their viewpoint expressed in letters was explained: without tour buses having this facility traders in town would be hard hit, tour operators would not stop here, some businesses might decline to the extent of closure, tourists liked to stay within sight of their buses and would not want to walk from the parking in Cole Point.

Opponents questioned the worth of visits of only 45 minutes, pointed out tourists would have to disembark into the path of vehicles using the square, said pollution would result from buses keeping engines running for air-conditioning, and said the buses would detract from the appearance and character of the square.

The meeting finally adopted the following resolution by a show of hands without opposition:

"That the STCA requests Sub-council Four



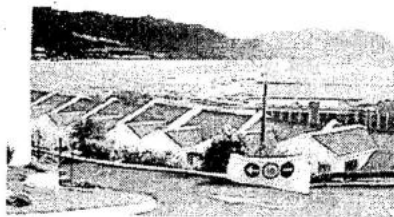
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of the Cape Town City Council to immediately revert to the tour bus parking system in the master traffic plan for Simon's Town adopted by the South Peninsula Municipality in 2000 after extensive public participation, and "Further, that subsequent deviation from this plan by Council officials to permit tour buses to park on Jubilee Square be immediately rescinded, and "Further, that in the light of two years of experience in the implementation of the master plan, and concerns about the absence of traffic officers to enforce its proper implementation, Council re-opens the plan for full review with priority emphasis on public safety."

Baboons

Monitors have been temporarily reinstated in the Da Gama Park area because some of the 360 baboons south of Silvermine raided homes, leading to confrontations including shooting, the use of poison and children being threatened. Yet people continue to feed them ...

Refuse Removal

Like it or not, the city council has ruled that we shall have those big "wheelie bins" in spite of the obvious hazards of trying to manhandle them, full and heavy, on steep slopes. If necessary they will be "baboon-proofed".

13 March

Several matters of public interest have come up since the newsletter following the general meeting last month.

Section 21

At that meeting some people expressed reservations about the planned Section 21 company. One was Dr Mike Berger, who afterwards sent a list of questions. Mrs Jacky Weaver responded to them. The replies should go a long way towards resolving fears and misunderstanding. They follow below, with some editing for brevity. But first some explanation:



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There seems no reason to fear the committee might act to the detriment of the STCA and its members. They were elected at a public meeting where members delegated authority to them to act in members' best interests. If members have trusted the committee this long they can presumably be trusted with this company. Everything the company does will have to be exposed to public scrutiny beforehand. The committee already has a mandate from the AGM last July to form a Section 21 company. The object last month was to show what progress had been made.

Question: Why do we need a Section 21 Company? What concrete advantages will it offer which cannot be provided by the present STCA in association with the SPA and our Councillor.

Answer: The various options considered last year were:

A Voluntary Association: the STCA is that already and members are not financially liable provided the STCA does not undertake business for gain. If it did, members would be potentially liable for losses.

A Trust: any clause in a trust which seeks to exempt trustees from damages sustained by beneficiaries due to negligence is void.

A Section 21 Company: it is a non-profit company without share capital. A director is only liable if he is wilfully a party to the conduct of a company's business in a manner that is fraudulent or reckless. It can apply for and get a tax exemption. It can receive institutional subsidies - very important for possible grants from the City of Cape Town if it can prove management capacity. To do that we will need to employ people. We cannot employ anyone or add services to our town if we are not registered as a Section 21 company. A Section 21 company cannot distribute either its profits or its assets to its members and must retain any profits realised and use them in pursuance of its main objectives. The objectives in our draft memorandum and articles are exactly the same as in the STCA constitution.

Question: What will happen to the present

STCA when the company is formed bearing the same name? Will it disappear? If not, why not? What role will it continue to perform? What if its views conflict with the company's?

Answer: Nothing will happen to the STCA. It will continue to perform its current role but will have a "business arm" and status to place it better in terms of negotiations with, proposals to and possible receipt of grants from the local authority. There cannot be a conflict between the company and the STCA, its parent, because they share identical objectives, which have been taken word for word from the STCA constitution.

Question: What is the charter of the 21 company? It appears to be largely business-orientated whereas the STCA was formed to serve all interests? Why don't you incorporate the "charter" of the STCA into the articles of association of the Section 21 company?

Answer: Registration is the first step. Next will be a comprehensive business/development plan for the improvement or addition of services or amenities for Simon's Town, in collaboration with all members. Such a plan will enable us to put a management and labour structure in place. The company is intended to be an umbrella body for whatever venture any group in Simon's Town wants to undertake, provided it is legitimate, practical and for the public good. Anything the company does which will impact on the community - like paid parking on Jubilee Square - will have to pass the test of public opinion before it can go ahead.

Question: *Finally, what are the provisions for inclusivity, transparency and accountability. I would want to see these translated into hard and concrete realities of membership, limitations on executive action, pre-emptive and post-hoc oversight by ordinary members, the election of directors, etc. There are gaps and omissions in the Articles of Association (which do) not inspire hope that the company will be truly representative.*

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Answer: The proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association were drawn up specifically to reflect the needs of the STCA by a local law firm. If anyone wants to improve particular clauses, please let us have suggestions in writing for legal opinion. Currently the STCA allows a property owner, company owning property or permanent resident to become a member. The Section 21 company will admit an owner of rateable property or tenant in Simon's Town to membership only if he agrees to be bound in writing to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and to give the guarantee requested in terms of the Memorandum. The management of the company will be in the hands of the directors who, as we suggested, must reflect the groupings found within the STCA committee. That way all interests will continue to be served and it will be up to the members of the STCA to ensure that the groupings are represented.

Valuations

Alderman Nicki Holderness urges everyone

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to act now to **correct errors** in the new property valuations. Next will be official letters to owners giving them a chance to respond formally. After that will come the rating policy phase, by when errors **MUST** be corrected or there will be problems.

The area south of Silvermine, she said, was under-supplied with resources such as police, law enforcement, etc, because there was a **perception** that people in the south were wealthy and had been under-taxed for housing development and social infrastructure.

This, she pointed out to city councillors, "is a downright lie". She is fighting to correct the perception. Cape Town had long levied extra taxes on electricity fees, and the area included Ocean View, Masiphumelele, Red Hill and other poor communities.

Development

Bruce Parker, the STCA's representative on the Architectural Advisory Committee, reports that Safmarine wants to build a **Marine Simulator Training Centre** on the Simon's Town School basketball court next to the main road. Although it is outside their area of jurisdiction (mainly the Historic Mile), the AAC approves. The centre will duplicate a ship's bridge.

The AAC has also approved in concept a plan for a **private memorial square** on Erf 1239, Queen's Road, adjoining the Old Burying Ground, where people can buy sites or niches for the ashes of departed relatives. The idea is for quiet, discreet buildings in classical style amid trees. The site is unsuitable for domestic dwellings.

Will Nussey

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Property Watch No 37

*Matters currently being dealt with by the
South Peninsula Administration are:*

1.1 Erf No 60 Simon's Town (Glencairn):
Land use departure application on behalf
of Waldorf Schools. No change from Report
No 36.

1.2 Erf No 2298 Simon's Town (Boulders
Beach Guest House): Application to rezone
from General Residential to Business. No
change from Report No 36.

1.3 Erf No 1180 Simon's Town (198 Queens
Road): Application for Land use departure
to convert Residential House to Medical
Practice. No change from Report No 36.

1.4 Erf No 4495, Cairnside: Application to
subdivide into portions. No change from Re-
port No 36.

1.5 Erf No 625, Simon's Town (Military
Road, Bayview): Application to subdivide
into two portions without formal road access
to one erf. No change from Report No 36.

1.6 Erf No 2212 Glencairn Heights: Appli-
cation for Bed & Breakfast establishment.
No change from Report No 36.

1.7 Erf No 3590 Simon's Town (Quarry
Road): Application for proposed rezoning,



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sub-division and departure change of zoning from general residential to single residential from 5 dwellings and 7 additional garages. Approved by South Peninsula Administration. No appeals received - matter now closed.

1.8 Erf No 2464 Forest Hill: Application for subdivision into two parts. No change from Report No 36.

1.9 Erf No 3477 Simon's Town (Goede Gift): Application for proposed subdivision into four portions. Access to site proposed by means of driveway excavated over Municipal Erf 941 and ramped over Quarry Lane to a level of 3m above the site. Approved by South Peninsula Administration subject to further appeals. No change from Report No 36.

1.10 Erf No 3050 Simon's Town (50 Fairbairn Street, Glencairn Heights): Application for departure from height restriction.

Application approved. Matter now closed.

1.11 Erf No 4403 Simon's Town (88 Dorries Drive): Application for departure from single residential to convert existing accommodation for self catering letting and to reduce the building line from 4.5m to 10m. Referred to Building Survey Department. No change from Report No 36.

1.12 Erf No 1400 Simon's Town (Kleintuin Road): Application for temporary land use departure in terms of Section 15 or Ordinance No 15 of 1985 to allow portions of premises to be used as a sales outlet for curios and other crafts. Open to interested parties for comment.

Other Property Matters:

2.1 CFM 983 Wildschutsbrandvlei: Application for land use departure to permit arts and crafts shop, pottery studio and sales outlet and a place for curio sellers. No change from Report No 36.



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2.2 **CFM 1404** Wildschutsbrand Farm: Application for land use departure for the establishment of a restaurant and tea garden, an African arts and craft market and overnight accommodation. No change from Report No 36.

2.3 **Erf 3333** Simon's Town: Offer currently being considered - property still available for sale. No change from Report No 36.

2.4 **Consolidated** and Amended Town Planning and Zoning Scheme Regulations for Simon's Town and Fish Hoek. No change from Report No 36.

Eve Leggatt

Drie Gebroeders Road

There is a short road down to Long Beach, near to Simon's Town Station. It is called Drie Gebroeders Road and was named after one of Simon's Bay's many shipwrecks.

The Drie Gebroeders was a Dutch flute of 828 tons and was commanded by Jan Roelofsz de Groot. She was on hire to the Dutch East India Company when she came to grief in Simon's Bay. The flute had sprung a leak while on a homeward-bound journey from Batavia, which she had left on 22 February 1792.

De Groot put into False Bay in an effort to save his ship, but she was beached at Long Beach on 2 June 1792. Most of her cargo was saved however.

Cathrynne Salter-Jansen
Simon's Town Museum

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SIMON'S TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE COAT OF ARMS BELOW WAS FORMERLY THE PROPERTY OF THE NOW DEFUNCT SIMON'S TOWN MUNICIPALITY AND HAS NOW BEEN GRANTED BY THE BUREAU OF HERALDRY TO THE SIMON'S TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY. APPLICATIONS FROM SIMON'S TOWN SOCIETIES TO USE THIS COAT OF ARMS SHOULD BE MADE TO: THE CHAIRMAN, SIMON'S TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 56, SIMON'S TOWN 7995, IN WRITING.



Simon's Town Business Association

Meetings thus far this year have been well attended by members and the Association has been proactive in initiating many projects.

An oxygen cylinder was purchased by the Business Association from Afrox Medispeed and donated to Mr Smiley van den Berg, a traffic officer from Fish Hoek.

Mr van den Berg has approached the Association for assistance in supplying equipment for use as a voluntary paramedic. He had felt that the assistance he was giving in emergencies was being compromised by a lack of proper equipment.

The Business Association felt that this was a very worthy cause and would benefit the whole community in the Valley. Niezaar Ebrahim of Afrox assisted with a very favourable price and formally handed over the cylinder to Smiley on 18 March. Many thanks to

Angela Lombard of Simon's Town Pharmacy who arranged and co-ordinated the purchase.

A conscious decision has been made to look after our selfless volunteers, and at this time our volunteer fire personnel were the beneficiaries. At the time of the big fires of 1999, some American visitors put funds into the Association who one of our members allowed them to use their facilities.

After much deliberation, it was decided to purchase the following equipment for the Fire Department headquarters: TV set, VCR, Hi-Fi, CD Player and speakers, microwave oven and a lounge suite. Neville Ambler of the Fire and Rescue Services received these on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Services and his hard working members are able to relax in comfort between shifts. Johan and Hester Fourie were responsible for organising this.

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The Business Association feels very strongly that the SA Navy is an integral part of our Town and that we work together for the benefit of all.

With this in mind, the Association decided to organise an open Disco Dance on Jubilee Square as part of the Navy Festival Celebrations on Friday 22 March.

It was decided not to charge an entrance fee, and all monies raised through the sale of drinks would be for our Community Police Officer, Donovan Roberts, who does a sterling job for us.

Judging by the atmosphere and buzz on the Town over the weekend, it was very gratifying to know that our foreign visitors did not have to leave Simon's Town to be entertained. Well done to Malinda and Hester and their hard working teams!

Jubilee Square remains controversial, certainly as far as bus parking is concerned. Towards the end of 2001, Malinda Coetzee and Peter Johnson held a meeting with

Councillor Nicki Holderness and SPM Engineers about the feasibility of allowing tour buses to park on Jubilee Square.

The current traffic plan was drawn up 3 years ago and since then the volume of traffic to Simon's Town has increased considerably, however it was possible to have three buses parked at one time on Jubilee Square.

It was felt that a 45 minute parking spot for tour buses at Jubilee Square was essential for businesses to benefit from the ever increasing tourist trade. The Civic Association is in total disagreement with the parking of buses on Jubilee Square.

Last year a meeting was held by Reg Loxton, Peter Johnson and Tony Robinson to investigate the formation of a Section 21 Company.

This is a non-profit company and will provide means of raising money for improved security, keeping the main roads clean, deterring crime and to pay cleaners, police



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officers, and traffic officers. Revenue would be generated by pay parking in Jubilee Square and Wharf Street and could be extended to Seaforth and Boulders.

In return the Business Association would undertake certain responsibilities with the central business district being the main concern.

A sub-committee of the Business Association has been formed to meet with the Civic Association to clarify the situation and to move ahead with the formation of the Section 21 Company. Rotation of vehicles would help solve the ever increasing parking problem.

The Simon's Town Community School has appealed to the Business Association and the community for support. This much needed facility is also available to hire for functions.

Trish Inggs

Music at St Francis

As a result of the inspiring and uplifting Bach concert given at St Francis Church on February 14th, we were able to donate R1000 to the Navy Band Project in Ocean View and Masiphumele, R1000 to St Francis Church Music Fund, R250 to the Museum and R250 to Snoektown Calling.

The Navy Band has started a new project in Nyanga with 35 students in the hope that they will soon be able to sponsor a senior music student to the University of Cape Town College of Music in the near future.

This is the fourth concert given in St Francis Church where the UK soloists have become involved in donating fees to provide music for children who otherwise would have no opportunities. Eton College and Salisbury Cathedral Choirs each gave R2000, which went towards buying a clarinet and a trumpet. The Freiburg Boys Choir gave R1000 to the Redhill School. We are beginning to

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provide a wonderful link between professional musicians in Europe and embryo musicians in the Deep South. It says much about our classical music tradition that great things can happen in small places.

Our own newly formed choir is going from strength to strength. We were lucky to have Ralph Allwood, Director of Music at Eton College, taking two choir practices and Clive Driskill Smith, U K Organ Performer of the Year, playing for a Service, and giving a short recital, which made our beautiful organ sound like a cathedral organ.

In April Dr John Birch, Organist of Chichester Cathedral and latterly the Middle Temple Church in London, will conduct an open choir practice, if anyone would like to attend.

Stephen Cleobury of Kings College Cambridge may give a short recital later in April. Watch the posters.

Juliet Bass



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The Simons Town Senior Citizens Computer Club

The Simons Town Senior Citizens Computer Club has had a most successful start to 2002. Club membership has increased significantly with the enrolment of a large number of new members, many of whom are attracted by the range of computer training courses which the Club runs in the afternoons at the Simons Town High School. The Club also recently held a very successful social evening at the Simons Town Museum, a venue that proved to be both popular and ideal. It is hoped to hold a similar event later in the year, possibly immediately after the next Annual General Meeting in October.

After Easter the Club will embark upon a new series of training classes. During the first quarter the popular Beginners Course was heavily oversubscribed so it has been decided to conduct two Beginners Courses

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this coming quarter - one on Mondays commencing on 15th April and a second on Tuesdays commencing on 16th April. Other courses ranging from Intermediate Level, Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook Express and E-mailing will also be held during April and May. To satisfy another aim of the Club and meet the needs of the more experienced members, a series of Question and Answer or Brainstorming sessions will be held in the PC Centre at the High School at 3pm on the first Thursday of every month, beginning on 2nd May.

New members are always welcome, especially those whose knowledge of computers is either non-existent or very limited. Join the Club and learn together! Details of membership and booking for the new courses are available from Don Butcher (Club President) on 786 5921 or Jane Pellatt on 786 1766.

Alan Grose
STSCCC - Communications

News from ST Naval Base

EXERCISE ATLASUR V - S/AMERICA VS S/AFRICA: Exercise Atlasur V, a combined exercise between the Navies from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa took place off Cape Point from 25 - 28 March.

The exercises are aimed at facilitating interoperability between Navies in the South Atlantic Ocean and to exercise standard international operational procedures. Taking part in the exercise from Brazil are the frigates Niteroi and Bosisio, the submarine Tupi and replenishment vessel Almirante Gastao Motta.

Ships from the Argentinian Navy are the frigates Ara Robinson and Ara Spiro while frigate Montevideo represents Uruguay. The Tupi is the same type of submarine that South African is currently acquiring. The SA Navy ships taking part in the exercise are SAS Drakensberg, SAS Makhandia, SAS Isaac

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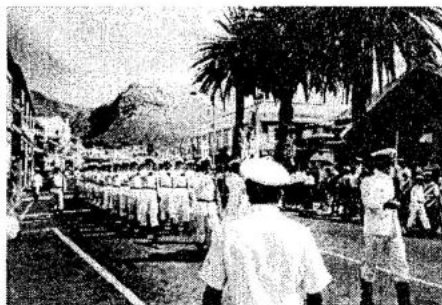
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OPENING OF NAVY FESTIVAL HERALDS NEW ERA FOR SA NAVY:

The Simon's Town Navy festival opened with the Right of Entry Parade in Jubilee Square and thereafter, for the first time, a black African Officer took charge of a Navy vessel. Warrant Officer Dennis Oettle handed over the inshore patrol vessel P1553 (unofficially christened "Tern") to **Sub Lieutenant "KP" Mahlangu** at a ceremony in the Dockyard. Sub Lieutenant Mahlangu, originally of Tweefontein in Mpumalanga, was awarded his bridge watchkeeping certificate in November 2000 on-board the Strike Craft SAS Adam Kok. He later completed an international maritime studies course in York Town, USA which included subjects on Search & Rescue and Coastguard duties. Sub Lieutenant Mahlangu is currently completing his B-Mil



Honour Guard for the "Freedom of the Town" Ceremony

degree through the Military Academy in Saldanha. *Tern* too is able to boast a list of achievements including the daring rescue in October 2000 when the fishing vessel *Pokie-M* sunk on the West Coast. She successfully rescued five out of the eight crew on board in extremely bad weather conditions. Sub Lieutenant Mahlangu considers taking charge of *Tern* an important "stepping stone" to becoming a survey officer on board the Navy's hydrographic survey vessel SAS *Protea*.

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News from Dr van der Merwe

18 March 2002

Ok, the joke's over when can I come home now !

The time is really getting on and I seriously miss everything about home. Thank goodness Anita; Nareen and Charl are coming over tomorrow. I have planned 2 weeks of unadulterated fun. We have to make all we can of this opportunity, since we would be unlikely to have the chance to visit England again with the way you lot are carrying on with our Rand! What is Mbeki up to? *One* is not amused when *one* hears about the hugs and kisses between Mbeki; Mugabe and Jacob Zuma, this after the whole world condemns the elections as undemocratic.

For a moment (and a very short moment I must add) I recently thought that I was in the land of milk and honey. Recent reports in the medical journals suggest that the British population are partaking in "a good

measure" of wine; women and food. When I read the article properly it reported about the problems only. According to the research, approximately 30 000 people per year die due to overindulgence in alcohol and its related problems. I wonder how the RSA compare. The British are also competing with the USA to be the fattest nation in the world and the high incidence of infertility in some young women, are attributed to an STD, causing damage to the Fallopian tubes. Well, if you have to watch BBC every night, what else is there to do but eat; drink and To top all of this, there are serious talk of legalising Dagga and also allowing heroin to be a prescription drug (for addicts). This is all done in the hope that the users will be more "responsible with its use" - fat chance! Obviously this will be refreshing news for the medical profession, since dagga has a great amount to offer in pain control and increasing appetite in cancer patients on chemotherapy. Just before you

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ask "what next?, they are now allowing women (wives and girls friends I hope) into the men's army barracks on a trial basis - possibly to extend this throughout the armed forces ! I think the whole "civilized" Europe thing is getting to me now.

On the lighter side, I went to a lovely cello master class at the Royal Academy of Music - what an experience to see a genius like Robert Cohen in action. I also went on a visit to Windsor Castle and the Globe theatre (a copy of the one where "Willem Wikkelspies" performed his plays) - very interesting indeed. Did you know that stains were removed from clothes with 3 week old urine in those days (I suppose the ammonia did the trick). A dress cost the equivalent of £ 6000 in those days and were worn sometimes by 3 generations (never washed because the dye were of vegetable extract and would wash out). Can you imagine the smell on a hot English afternoon (Shakespeare's plays lasted some 3 hours without interval), in the standing area around the stage. With no toilets inside (and not wanting to lose your place by going outside) the patrons also did "their thing" right there in the standing area on the provided straw. Simply would not do at the Nico Malan, I think !

That's all the useless information for this month, see you soon. I will be back towards the end of June (turning into a poet as well now).

Kindest regards
Steven van der Merwe

Neighbourhood Watch News

"The ultimate benefit of NW is the building of a community with a strong feeling of belonging.

This is something modern life has robbed

us of, so let's get it back."

The above is a quote from the NW Association of the W.Cape and encapsulates for me the nub of what it's all about.

Very much on this theme is Goede Gift NW area where a "street party" was held for the 24 houses. 4 new families of very recent arrival and a total of 48 residents attended. The party was held on the lawns of John and Jill Stirrup starting at 1700hrs with the last happy guests leaving after 2000hrs. Several of the residents joined forces to provide the food. Why all this about a party?

Well this was undoubtedly an ideal way of building the community. If we don't know each other we won't talk to each other and if we don't talk we won't know and if we don't know we will be unaware of each other's worries or plight should crime arrive.

It becomes ever more apparent from the monthly NW meetings that residents don't know how or when to communicate with the SAPS. As the first aim is to prevent crime and the second to apprehend criminals the focus has to be on keeping a sharp look out for changes in the familiar pattern of life and the landscape. Dog walkers are in the best position to do this. So many times suspicious circumstances are seen but not reported or followed up. The prevalence of crime now is such that all unusual observations are likely to be leading to problems.

"Watch unobserved if possible for a while and even if the persons move off try and get the necessary information about the persons or vehicle and phone the SAPS. They rely heavily on our knowledge of our environment. They can't have that detail and will never be on the spot. We are able to do both.

As our SAPS are stretched in terms of personnel some NW areas have offered to provide a vehicle when the SAPS do not have one available at short notice. So if you

phone them and they can't respond find out why and see if anyone in your patch can help them get to the scene fast. There is no need for the residents to be exposed to any danger in such a case as the SAPS will drive and leave the owner at the station.

On this point 5 members who attended this month's NW meeting will be visiting our station one weekend evening to get a feel for the back up needs of the station. Jobs such as answering the phone to free up field operators could be one way of helping them.

The message in all of this is that our police cannot operate efficiently without our active support.

The self defence course is now fully attended by 20 ladies so if you want to get on the next one please contact Insp. Store on 786 2127 before it's too late.

Ian Howse

Baboon Matters: Finding Solutions for Managing Baboons

The Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus* is an integral part of the fynbos biome and is found living in thirteen troops within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment that borders the city of Cape Town.

Due to the continuing incursion of development into the natural areas of our city, the home ranges of these troops has diminished substantially over the years, which has led to a number of complex problems involving baboon/human interactions.

A new management team is in place that is working towards maximising and further developing the baboon monitor programme on the Cape Peninsula. Officially endorsed by the relevant conservation authorities, Baboon Matters has already initiated a number

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of projects in order to develop the monitor programme into a long-term, sustainable solution to the baboon management problems on the Peninsula.

In order to facilitate any long-term management strategies, it is important that residents living in the communities on the urban edge of our city are aware of their responsibilities towards reducing human/ primate conflict by ensuring that their homes and gardens offer as little temptation to resident baboon troops as possible.

Baboon Matters strives to assist residents in gaining a better understanding of the dynamics of baboon behaviour and ecology, whilst at the same time working towards implementing sustainable solutions to the problem of baboons entering residential areas.

In the future we intend to offer guided visits to watch and learn about the baboons in the company of the baboon monitors. We

welcome any new ideas for fundraising for this important conservation work. For more information, contact Baboon Matters on 780 1124 or email envirolink@iafrica.com.

Juliet Bass

Simon's Town Community Police Forum

NOTICE OF AGM

Members of the public are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Simon's Town Police Forum, which will be held at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Simon's Town at 6pm on Wednesday 24th April.

Snacks and a glass of wine will be served on conclusion of the meeting.

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Memories of Happy Days - Part 2

We lived for a time - Mother, Dad and I - in No 16 Hilyard Street, one of a row of houses facing a common, across a cobbled road. Steps led from the common to a church, where Sunday School was quite jolly. Little illustrated cards were given out each week; when you had 5 cards you were given a larger card, mostly featuring the shepherds watching their flocks by night.

Children were encouraged, with promises of awards, to recite verses of a suitable nature. My offering was: "Maria Maria, she sat on the fire / The fire was too hot so she sat on the pot / The pot was too round so she sat on the ground / The ground was too flat so she sat on the cat / The cat ran away with a humble on its back." I wasn't given an award, and stayed away forever after.

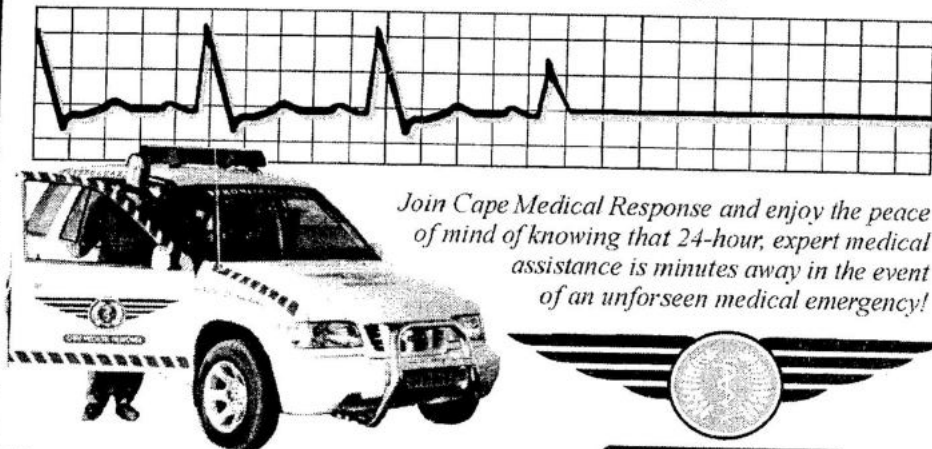
Rough boys lived at the top end of Hilyard Street, and would occasionally storm our end of the road. During one of their forays I

was knocked down, cutting my forehead on the cobble stones. Naturally I yelled blue murder, and when Mother saw the blood she screamed, "My baby's blinded!" I have this on hearsay.

My best friend Janet Hendry lived two doors away (she had beautiful blonde sausage curls); Janet and I played an uncomplicated game of "Aunties". We were each given half an unpeeled banana - these became ice creams, the spoons were spent matches retrieved from the gutter. Sitting on the edge of the pavement, we made grown-up conversation: "How are you, auntie?" "Very well thank you." "And how is your baby?" "Very sick, auntie. I think he is going to die." "Shame. What's he sick from?" "Ditheria; he's got ditheria all over." "Shame, Auntie."

In our street diphtheria was a known killer - Helty Bates' baby sister had recently died of it. When I asked, Mother said it was some-

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thing that looked like orange pith stuck in the throat, which choked you to death. From then on, I was terrified of swallowing even one thread of white from an orange or naartjie.

Ma and Pa's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary was in Occasion. She had the living room walls covered in the new William Morris-style "watered silk" wallpaper, with a dado below the picture rail in pink and cream. Aunts Noline and Helty shrilled their approval. Pa threatened to kill himself (he repeated the threat when Ma had her waist-length hair shingled).

The street had recently been wired for electricity, the houses fitted with the necessary hardware, but not yet connected to power. However, Dad was an electrical engineer and knew how to "fix" Ma's house. When Pa came home and was about to light the gas, Dad motioned him to wait, depressed the nipple of the wall switch and Lo! there was light. Ma fainted. Well, what she did

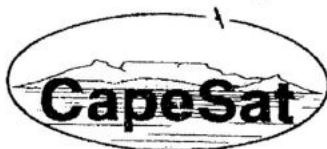


was to swoon, sinking gently to the floor with a sigh. When the Anniversary guests arrived they met the startling sight of silky walls, cane chairs and Electricity. The Modern Age has arrived in Guimpe Street.

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

We are here! It is almost Easter, the Navy 2002 Festival has come and gone, ships from three South American navies have honoured us with a visit, the Argus/Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour has happened and the Two Oceans Marathon too. Fast times that we move in and Easter being early this year makes everything seem to be happening even faster. It is at this stage that we drag out a cliché like, "If you can't stand the heat you should not be in the kitchen." Or words to that effect! Speaking of heat what do you think of the past few days. Tropical man Tropical!!

Although things have been thankfully quiet on the sea rescue front, except for those three fortunate fishermen that were rescued off the coast of Southern KwaZulu Natal after spending a dreadful night at sea, Station 10 remains prepared and alert. "Spirit of Freemasonry" is ever ready for the next call and in first class condition to meet it.

The wave rider "Eddie Beaumont" has been sent to a firm in Somerset West where the outboard motors are undergoing a 100 hour service and should be back in service by Friday 22 March. The 4x4 having stood by the cyclists is also ready to be of use.

On Saturday 16 March Station 10 personnel with their wives and friends enjoyed an informal braai at the boathouse which took on the guise of a Disco and great fun was had by all; and the folk proved that life is not all service and duty although those two are never far removed. There were those that were ever watchful and ready to go for broke if need be.

The doors of the boat house facing onto Cole Point are soon to be renewed and sounds of other happenings is promising. Station 10, along with rescue personnel from Station 9 (Gordon's Bay) and from Station 16 (Strandfontein), will be participat-

NANNY WANTED

Young lady (early Twenties(?)) with some childminding / nanny experience to live with SA/Italian family in Tuscany, Italy (near Florence) to look after two children (aged 2 1/2 and 1) while parents are at work (most weekends and evenings free.) Fare to Europe paid. Salary approx R5,000 per month (Accommodation and keep all found)

Tel: 021 786 5943

Fax : 021 786 5948

Applicants to provide general background, education and experience

ing in an exercise at Gordon's Bay on 6 April with South African Air Force Helicopters. Readers may recall last year's breath-taking display in Simon's Bay when the same participants were involved. This time residents of Strand, Somerset West and Gordon's Bay will be able to witness the show. I hope they will appreciate it as much as we did. Of one thing I am sure and that is that the participants will enjoy the ride and the braai afterwards!

On 13 April Station 10 members will provide a static display at the First Birthday celebration at Longbeach Mall. At this display, cake will be sold and all proceeds will go to Station 10 funds. So folks support NSRI it's always a good cause.

Further afield but not that far off is the Golf Fund Raising Day that is being organised by the Station 10 "Shorelink Committee". This will take place on Monday 17 June which is an overflow holiday for Sunday 16 June which is Youth Day. The competition

will be American Scramble which is a fun event where a whole four ball plays as a team. Four ball teams can be entered at R250 or single entrants will be R70 and they will take their chances on whom their partners will be. No one will be turned away! So come on all you sports, give it a go and give us your dough - it is for a good cause! After sweating it out on the links, oh yes! Simon 's Town is a true links course, a braai and a few coldies will round off events. Call 786 1233 to book. There will be prizes and maybe someone funny to hand them out so for the sake of the show- have a go.

"C" crew's Steven Conradie has decided to sell his business (which has already happened as far as I know), to fit out his Land Rover(also done) and with some friends head up into Africa and to eventually visit the United Kingdom. A serious loss for Station 10 but we wish him all the luck and good fortune for a successful journey and happy landings. We hope to hear from him from time to time.

"C" crew has also been unfortunate to lose the services of Coxswain and Deputy Station Commander Geoff Burchell who has decided to spend more time with his family. This is a sad blow but Geoff has given many years of sterling service to Station 10 and will not be entirely lost to the Station as he will still assist in servicing the outboard motors from time to time.

The new Coxswain of "C" crew is not new to the Station and Louis Duimelaar is a very experienced coxswain and well equipped to take up the reins. He and experienced crewman and surf rider Coxswain Russel Wright are most welcome and congratulated on their positions. This capability shows the efficacy of good training and constant practice where holes can be filled when they occur.

Lastly this writer regrets not recording in these pages the sad passing of the first Station Commander of Station 10, the late Commander Alan Boyle who passed on to higher service earlier this year. Alan Boyle was a



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Private consultation

highly respected citizen of Simon 's Town and put a great deal of work into the beginnings of this Station and his passing is respectfully regretted.

***Yours aye
Don Dollery***

Simon's Town Community Police Forum

BULLETPROOF VESTS - A CHALLENGE

Your forum has circulated an appeal for funds that includes the following statement:

The South African Government, conscious of the need to involve the community in the fight against crime in this country, has motivated the formation of a Community Forum in each police precinct. The objective of the Forum is to generate goodwill and co-operation between the police and the commu-

nity, and for the public to express its support for the police in various ways.

Currently, the Simon's Town Forum is focusing on the provision of bulletproof vests for our local police officers. Whilst a number of these are provided from police resources, the unacceptably high incidence of officers killed on duty clearly indicates that more are needed. Throughout our country an average of almost one officer a day is murdered. This is a shocking statistic. Bulletproof vests are clearly not the ultimate solution, but whilst other crime fighting measures are slowly beginning to bear fruit, the urgent need is for protection now.

The Simon's Town Community Police forum has already secured four vests from Chubb Security, a generous donation that is greatly appreciated, and has authorized the purchase of an additional one from its relatively meagre funds. It is launching an appeal to the local community to contribute to the purchase of at least three more. Our neigh-



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Trifle*

Friday 12 April

*Steak Egg Chips
Jelly & Custard*

Friday 19 April

*Lasagne
Ice Cream & Hot Chocolate Sauce*

Friday 26 April

*Steak & Kidney Pie
Apple Pie*

Friday 3 May

*Portuguese Chicken
Lemon Meringue*

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R27.50 per head
from 17H30 onwards on Fridays***

bours in Fish Hoek, where a detective was murdered only last month, have launched a similar appeal. We have contacts with the Dutch and British police, and are hopeful that this may result in a gift of several vests. There is really no limit to the number of vests that are needed, as each precinct has insufficient to protect all its officers.

The vests are expensive, about R4000 each. Any contributions, in cash or in kind, would be of great value. Yours could help to save a life.

The Simon's Town Community Police Forum (CPF), as mentioned above, has secured the promise of four vests from Chubb, a gesture that is greatly appreciated. As the need for these items is quite desperate, the Forum has allocated funds for the purchase of another vest to kick-start the appeal, and has at the same time appealed to the public to donate funds toward the acquisition of at least three more.

A number of residents of Flagship Way and Runciman Drive (Neighbourhood Watch Area 6) have already raised sufficient funds to acquire a further vest and have issued a **challenge to other Neighbourhood Watch Areas to do the same**. Watch Leaders can forward cheques (payable to the Simon's Town Community Police Forum) to Peter Law, Treasurer, at 9 Flagship Way Simon's Town or post them to Tony Robinson at P.O. Box 175, Simon's Town. We will publish progress reports as the response gathers momentum.

At the public forum meeting on the 25th March, when the appeal was announced, Reg Loxton immediately put up his hand and donated an additional vest. This generous response was greeted with applause and gratitude. A suggestion that we should print Reg's name on the vest drew the unkind comment that this might make the beneficiary of the vest a serious target.

Chubb have agreed to allow us to purchase

the vests through their supplier, and their continued support is sincerely appreciated.

Please don't wait for your local Neighbourhood Watch Leader to contact you. You can forward your donation direct to any of the addresses above, but please indicate the name and address of the donor and we will acknowledge your contribution and attribute it to your Neighbourhood Watch area. The Area 6 donors have donated R400 each, but any amount would be gratefully received.

If you haven't personally received a request to participate, do please accept this as your invitation.

MONTHLY FORUM MEETINGS

We are planning to reduce the number of public meetings to four per annum. The first will be the Annual General Meeting, which will be held this year on Wednesday 24th April at 6.00pm at the Lord Nelson. Snacks and a glass of wine (or maybe two) will be served after the proceedings. You are welcome to attend.

Thereafter the public meetings will be held on the last Monday of July, October and January. Their function will be to report back to the Community, although we will continue to write a monthly report for publication in *Snoektown Calling*.

Our monthly Exco meetings will continue, and we will attend the weekly Gococ (a police co-ordinating committee) meeting in Fish Hoek. We hope that our AGM will expand our committee to a total of eight (currently six).

CRIME

Despite the huge influx of visitors to the Navy Festival, criminal activity was at low ebb. In fact, to the great credit of our lawmen no fewer than six arrests have been made in respect of thefts from motor vehicle in recent weeks, including two caught in the act over the Festival weekend.

Some arrests for growing dagga have been made, but more seriously the police are concerned at the growing incidence of serious drug abuse. (Inspector) Cassie Carstens appeals for any information that might help to identify the dealers in this immoral and life-threatening trade. Information will be treated with the utmost confidence. If you are nervous about phoning the police yourself, ask a friend or phone any of your forum members. We are here to help. Your information could help prevent a disaster.

Abalone poaching continues unabated. Are there any fishermen out there with information that might help? Cassie is again your man.

PUBLIC FUNCTIONS

The Festival disco on Friday night, organised by the Business Association, appeared to be a relatively well behaved affair, although yet again their were examples of

juveniles so thoroughly inebriated as to be incapable on any coherent speech or action. The police are concerned, but there is little they can do, as liquor is purchased by older "friends" and subsequently distributed to the under aged out of sight of the authorized sellers. It is our belief that parents are neglecting their responsibility.

Such instances were infinitely more frequent at the year-end party in Jubilee Square, and it is clear that something has to be done.

Another aspect is that the music and raucous (and sometimes offensive) shouting seems to continue long after the advertised close down time. There were many complaints about this aspect.

Your Forum has therefore decided that, in conjunction with police, community organisations and residents it will draw up a set of acceptable guidelines for such future events, which will be enforced.

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VISITING SHIPS

It was marvellous to see the harbour full of warships over the week-end, and the Navy is to be congratulated on another wonderful festival. Without wishing, in any way, to detract from this great event, perhaps we should consider issuing future visiting sailors with an engraved Simon's Town beer mug on arrival, as it seems that they are going to take at least one home each anyway. To that you might add a picture postcard or two and an occasional ashtray.

BITS & PIECES

It was good to see our traffic man Deon Cronje back in town again after successfully completing his Municipal Police Officers course. Get your ticket book out Deon, we have got into bad habits whilst you have been away.

We heard from the Happy Valley Home that they are receiving increased requests for Car Guards - a facility sponsored by the police and the Forum, and operated by the Home. Phone Cindy Dollery if you need their services. It's a great way of creating jobs.

We hear that Carl Nortier of the Parks Board is back in the area, and would have attended this month's meeting but for some inconvenient poachers. It is great to have this exceptionally brave and committed young man back with us.

The Neighbourhood Watch has offered volunteers to help man the phones and to undertake some paper work at the police station. Captain du Pisanie accepted with alacrity.

Admiral Bucani (I hope I have the spelling right) was a welcome guest at the Forum this month. It is especially gratifying when senior members of the Navy take an interest in our affairs, as they very often do, but particularly so when the officer concerned is directly involved in the fight against crime.

I would like to thank Bevan Pank, in the first instance for reading the Simon's Town Community Police Forum (STCPF) report, and secondly for pointing out, quite correctly, that some of the acronyms used may not be immediately recognizable.

Without wishing to defend the use of these intended aids to brevity, I wondered whether our illustrious editor might consider printing a glossary in each issue of Snoektown in order that all the residents might gradually become familiar with these terms, and that visitors might easily understand the strange language we do use in Simon's Town.

To begin with, Mr. Pank, whom, it may be suggested, fell into the trap himself, with the repeated use of the acronym SLAP, may care to provide us with the longer form of SLAP. When he referred to AMT, did he mean ATM, or is it another acronym that is in need of clarification, I wonder?

For my part I would like to contribute the following:

GOCOC - Ground Operational Crime Organisation Committee

CPO - Community Police Officer

CPF - Community Police Forum

STCA - Simon's Town Civic Association

ST - Simon's Town

FH - Fish Hoek

SAPS - South African Police Service

NHW - Neighbourhood Watch (also referred to as NW)

CPNP - Cape Peninsula National Park

CMC (formerly SPA, formerly SPM, formerly STM) - Who we pay rates to.

With apologies to those SLAP members who were confused,

Yours faithfully
TR

The Night Sky

In April, the Hyades part of Taurus, the Bull, will be setting soon after sunset. The planet Saturn is still opposite Aldebaran, the eye of the Bull, although they are moving apart. The bright Venus sets early in the evening, followed by a dim Mars at magnitude +1.5, and then Saturn, magnitude +0.1. The next planet to set is the bright Jupiter, magnitude -2.2 in Gemini, the Twins, at the feet of Castor. Following on the ecliptic is Cancer the Crab with weak stars of only the 4th magnitude or less, which are not easily seen without binoculars.

The bright constellation Leo is high in the sky with 1st magnitude, Regulus at the head and 2nd magnitude Denebola at the Lion's tail, which is 36 light years away from us, but 14 times brighter than our Sun. At this time of the year, the Milky Way, which was North-South in the Summer turns East-West. South of Leo is Corvus the Crow. In the early morning Virgo is visible on the ecliptic in the East.

Looking South-East in the Milky Way is a number of bright constellations which dominate this part of the sky. Rising over the Simonsberg at 10pm is Lepus, the Wolf, Centaurus, the Centaur, containing the pointers to the Southern Cross, the Crux, Musca the Fly, the Diamond Cross and the False Cross, two hours ahead of the true Cross, followed by Carina, the ships Keel, with the very bright Canopus, the second brightest star in the sky at its head.

A few degrees South-East of Canopus is the Large Magellanic Cloud - where there is at present a bright nova.

At the side of the Southern Cross is the beautiful Jewel Box, discovered by Herschel, which he named "the Jewel Box of Kappa Crucis". This is a cluster of red, yellow, green, blue and white stars. Not far from this in the very large constellation of Centauri is Omega Centauri, consisting of

about 50,000 stars densely clustered in a circular patch. Both Omega Centauri and the Jewel Box are easily found, being near the Southern Cross and are excellent binocular or small telescope objects, yet few people have ever seen them. This is a good time of the year to make observations before the rains - and having once been seen will never be forgotten.

These southern stars are circumpolar, turning in a clockwise direction around the South Polar Star, Sigma Octans in twenty three hours and 56 minutes. An interesting experiment is to set up a camera on a tripod in a dark place, pointing towards the Southern Cross, and opening the shutter for an hour or longer. The star trails come out as parts of a circle and the position of due South is clearly visible. Try it!

The Planets

Mercury, magnitude -1.3 is visible in the West after sunset. It is in superior conjunction on the 7th.

Venus, magnitude -3.9 is a very bright evening planet low in the West after sunset, it is 3° North of the Moon on the 14th, near the Pleiades on the 22nd and near the Hyades and Aldebaran, the eye of the Bull on the 30th.

Mars, magnitude +1.5 is an evening planet also in Taurus. On the 16th it is 2° North of the Moon. At the end of the month it moves near to Aldebaran and is opposite Saturn on the 30th.

Jupiter, magnitude -2.2 is a bright evening planet in Gemini being 1.6° South of the Moon on the 19th. It is much higher in the West than the other planets mentioned.

Saturn, magnitude +0.1 is an evening planet low in the West at sunset. On the 14th it is 3° North of the Moon. On the 15th it has started moving away from Aldebaran

in Taurus, on the 22nd Mars moves up to Saturn and on the 30th it is closer to Mars.

Mars, Venus and Mercury are in a straight line above the horizon at dusk on the 30th. Saturn is to the West of them and out of line. Uranus, magnitude +5.9 is in Aquarius. It will be 4° North of the Moon on the 8th. It is in the morning sky.

Neptune, magnitude +7.9 is in Capricorn, being 4° North of the Moon on the 6th.

Pluto, magnitude +13.8 is in the 13th sign of the Zodiac Ophiuchus. It is only visible in a large telescope of + 10", in the morning sky.

The Moon

New Moon is on the 12th, First Quarter on the 20th. Full Moon is on the 27th, Last Quarter is on the 4th.

There will be a Penumbral Eclipse on the 24th June at 10:18pm, ending at 0hr35min on the 25th.

Also a Penumbral Eclipse will take place on 20 November at 1:32am, ending at 6hr01am.

The Sun

The Sun started moving into the Northern Hemisphere at the Autumn Equinox on 20 March. Most of the month it will be in Pisces, but it will move into Aries for the last few days. In May it will be in Aries and Taurus.

Sunrise on the 1st is at 6:58am and Sunset at 6:41pm. Sunrise at the end of the month is at 7:20am and Sunset at 6:06pm, so the days are getting shorter.

There will be a total eclipse of the Sun on 4th December. It will be 60% in Simon's Town; 80% at Bloemfontein and Kimberley; 100% at Tuli, Beitbridge, Messina, Thohoyandu and the Kruger National Park North of Shingwedzi.

At Simon's Town it begins at 7:32am and ends at 9:33am.

Meteor Showers

The April Lyrids has a favourable prediction on April 22nd at 3am to 5am. Look due North for any possible meteors.

Comets

There have been no reports of sightings of Comet Linear.

Hubble Space Telescope

This is 11 years old and has been "refitted" and is now rejuvenated!

Peter I van Blommestein

PENSIONERS' MONTHLY SHOPPING BUS

To Pick n' Pay Longbeach Mall and Sun Valley. From Murdoch Valley (Ixia Crescent terminus) via Simon's Town and Fish Hoek and return. Next trip 04 April 2002. For times and pick up points please phone 021 786 3137.

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Vagrants in Simon's Town: Over the past few months numerous complaints have been received regarding vagrants in Simon's Town. The police are aware of the increase but must stress that unless these vagrants break the law, they cannot simply be arrested. It is evident that one sections of the public are under the impression that the SAPS are doing nothing to curb the problem. At Simon's Town we are lucky to have CPO Donovan Roberts, who patrols the CBD on a daily basis, as well as over weekends. During February he arrested 67 vagrants for drunk and other petty offences. The vagrancy problem is not only endemic to Simon's Town or South Africa but is a worldwide social phenomena.

Simon's Town Neighbourhood Watch: The above organisation meets on the second Tuesday (public holidays excluded) of each month at 5pm on the Simon's's Town Hall. If your area has no branch and you are interested in finding out more about the organisation feel free to attend. The present Chairman is Mr Ian Howse.

Poaching: Poaching of Marine sources in the Simon's Town area is still occurring even though arrests are made each week. If you have information please telephone Insp Carstens on 786-2118.

Project SABENA (Anti-Rape Classes):

This project has started again after almost a year. The classes are being run by Insp Store and as usual great interest is being shown. The present courses are being held on Wednesday mornings in the SA Naval Gym and on Friday afternoons at St Kirian's Church Fish Hoek. The next course will start on 17 April and interested persons can contact Insp Store 786-2118 or Insp Breed 782-6333 during the first week of April.

Remember together we can make a difference!

Insp Store - 786-2118

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Chubb
ARMED RESPONSE

Peninsula Tourism Simon's Town

March 2002

The last few months have been exceptionally busy at the Information Bureau. The usual flood of South African visitors plus another bumper New Year Party on Jubilee Square, were followed by an unprecedented influx of overseas visitors, especially from Britain, Germany, Holland and Belgium. February and March have been the busiest months ever at the Bureau with a record number of requests for accommodation. The superb weather ensured the success of some special outdoor events such as the Simon's Town Museum's annual sunset concert on Jubilee Square and the memorable Navy Band concert in the lovely setting of Admiralty House Gardens.

Thanks to the Navy Festival (celebrating the 80th birthday of the SA Navy) the summer season has been extended. Admiral Koos Louw and his hardworking staff deserve hearty congratulation for a wonderful Festival enhanced by the presence of our visitors from South America - Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

In next month's report I hope to welcome several new members to Peninsula Tourism, Simon's Town. Best wishes to all for a sunny, happy Easter.

Sue Sturman

Where were the Sentries?

Congratulations to the SA Navy for pulling out all the stops and making the festival so exciting! Although a long roundabout walk from the parking area, it was worth our while to see the action. But where were the sentries "guarding" Admiralty House? Even when the Admiral is not in residence, they are a great tourist attraction in their smart uniforms.

Bevan Pank

The Mountain Men

On the subject of home security, patrolmen neither in cars nor on foot can see around corners - but the Mountain Men can! So while most of we Glencairn residents dither, they are supported by the people of Lakeside, Muizenberg and Sunny Cove. Those in Kalk Bay could well be next, since a series of successful apprehensions in the area.

The Mountain Men recently initiated a project to spend time on the mountain opposite Elsie's Peak. From there, they can closely watch old Glencairn, Glencairn Heights, Glen Beach, Glen Ridge and even Welcome Glen with binoculars. Two suspicious characters in Glencairn Heights were followed to the Quarry, where their friends were trespassing and law enforcement was then contacted.

Not all homeowners in the Glencairn area can afford security gates, or fancy alarm systems. Neither do all houses lend themselves to the fitting of burglar guards. If all of us were willing to pay only R50 per month, we would have keen-eyed hawks in our mountains!

Bevan Pank

False Bay Chess Club

"Enigma", a current film about the "infallible" German coding of World War 11. "Ultra" the Allied cryptography unit, which broke the code, included a good number of leading chess players. This leads cryptographically to False Bay Chess Club, meeting Mondays at 8pm in the Fish Hoek Library Hall.

Afrikom News

Overhaul improves City Police Services

Cape Town's City Police is busy jacking up its service by implementing various new initiatives. The City Police services range from the bobbies on the beat, traffic control

and law enforcement.

City Police Chief, Mark Sangster, reacted to reports on problems at the traffic department.

"Last year we surmised that the Traffic Department's administrative systems were insufficient and appointed an independent auditor to review these systems. The aim was and will always be to render the best possible service to City.

"Shortly after the appointment of the auditors we started to implement new initiatives to address some of the obvious shortcomings. These include a vehicle registration plate recognition system, the establishment of a call centre and the amalgamation of resources.

"The first trial of the number plate recognition system will commence towards the end of this month. The call centre will contact offenders in an attempt to secure payment for fines before summonses are prepared. Through the unification of the old administrations within the borders of the City we will free valuable resources to augment service delivery," says Sangster.

Some other initiatives are the outsourcing of the summons serving and warrant execution process and the establishment of a dedicated tracing and tracking unit. Tenders for the summons serving service closed Friday, 22 March and the adjudication process will commence shortly.

Mr Sangster confirmed that the senior managers of the Traffic Department who had the chance to study the interim audit report will comment at a meeting with the Cape Town Traffic Chief and will then forward these comments to the auditors to compile the final report.

"I am satisfied that the audit process will run its natural course and provide us with the strategic input for future planning. We will continue with the implementation of the various service improvement initiatives. Where necessary we will investigate any wrongdoing and act on the outcome of such investigation," Sangster says.



Neighbourhood Watch or, Zimbabwe Ruined

Observers on the whole agree;
 Elections neither fair nor free.
 But - base and crooked
 Not a bit;
 What Robert did was quite legit.

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Committee Members and their Portfolios:

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Tony Robinson	Vice Chairman	786-1222
Peter Law	Treasurer	786-3880
Dorothy Mecinska	Secretary	786-2217
Insp Store	Simon's Town SAPS	786-2127
Insp Carstens	Simon's Town SAPS	786-2127
Capt du Pisanie	SAPS Station Commissioner	786-1822
Shaun Smith	SPA Law Enforcement	786-3667
Deon Cronje	Asst Super Traffic	083 737 0940
Manu Choudree	STCA/MP	787-3845
Nicki Holderness	City	786-3298
Don Dollery	NSRI Station 10 Shorelink	786-1714

SIMON'S TOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Peter Johnson	At Ease Book Shop	786-1374	Chairperson
George Bowes	St George's Jewellery	786-1495	Vice Chairperson
Hester Fourie	The Sheriff	786-1576	Treasurer
Marian Butcher		786-2412	Secretary
Malinda Coetzee	Central Hotel	786-3775	PRO

SIMON'S TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Fran Freeman	Chairman	782-6644
Ian Allan	Treasurer	782-2736
Dorothy Mecinska	Secretary	786-2217 or 786-2133
Cdr Jaco Theunissen	SA Navy	787-3049
Nicki Holderness	City	786-3298
Sharon Nosma	Environment	786-1072
Justin Buchmann	SANP (CPNP)	786-1421 or 786-2329
Manu Choudree	Security/Safety	787-3845
Peter Johnson	Economic Development	786-1374
Eve Legatt	Property	786-3960
Luyanda Lombo	Red Hill	780-9123 or 780-9204
Dr John Morris	TBA	786-1765
Wilf Nussey	Communications	786-1368
Geoff Palmer	Litter	786-5402
Bill Rice	Dockyard Development	786-3909
Dirk Van Niekerk	Roads & Traffic	786-1320
Jacky Weaver	Glencairn Vlei	782-5335

APRIL 2002

Day of Week Daag van Week		High/Hoog- water		Low/Laag- water		Sun/Son		Moon/Maan	
		a.m. vm.	p.m. nm.	a.m. vm.	p.m. nm.	Rises Op- koms	Sets Onder- gang	Rises Op- koms	Sets Onder- gang
		h.m.	h.m.	h.m.	h.m.	h.m.	h.m.	h.m.	h.m.
		u.m.	u.m.	u.m.	u.m.	u.m.	u.m.	u.m.	u.m.
1	Mon/Maan	0537	1806	1158	—	0658	1841	2132	1058
2	Tue/Dins	0619	1851	0006	1241	0659	1840	2218	1204
3	Wed/Woens	0706	1950	0055	1331	0659	1838	2308	1307
4	Thur/Don	0812	2124	0203	1449	0700	1837	—	1403
5	Fri/Vry	1005	2317	0357	1650	0701	1836	0003	1453
6	Sat/Sat	1154	—	0549	1818	0702	1834	0059	1536
7	Sun/Son	0029	1255	0650	1907	0702	1833	0156	1613
8	Mon/Maan	0113	1333	0729	1941	0703	1832	0253	1646
9	Tue/Dins	0147	1404	0758	2009	0704	1831	0350	1715
10	Wed/Woens	0216	1433	0825	2034	0704	1829	0445	1743
11	Thur/Don	0244	1459	0852	2059	0705	1828	0539	1809
12	Fri/Vry	0311	1527	0918	2125	0706	1827	0634	1836
13	Sat/Sat	0337	1554	0945	2151	0706	1825	0729	1903
14	Sun/Son	0404	1622	1013	2218	0707	1824	0826	1933
15	Mon/Maan	0432	1651	1042	2248	0708	1823	0924	2006
16	Tue/Dins	0501	1722	1113	2320	0709	1821	1023	2044
17	Wed/Woens	0534	1758	1148	2358	0710	1820	1123	2128
18	Thur/Don	0613	1843	1230	—	0710	1819	1223	2219
19	Fri/Vry	0707	1950	0049	1329	0711	1818	1320	2318
20	Sat/Sat	0832	2132	0211	1501	0712	1816	1412	—
21	Sun/Son	1021	2308	0409	1646	0713	1815	1459	0021
22	Mon/Maan	1145	—	0539	1759	0713	1814	1541	0129
23	Tue/Dins	0014	1245	0639	1853	0714	1813	1619	0239
24	Wed/Woens	0105	1335	0727	1938	0715	1812	1655	0350
25	Thur/Don	0149	1419	0811	2020	0716	1811	1729	0500
26	Fri/Vry	0232	1501	0853	2101	0717	1810	1804	0611
27	Sat/Sat	0313	1543	0933	2142	0717	1809	1841	0722
28	Sun/Son	0353	1623	1013	2223	0718	1808	1921	0834
29	Mon/Maan	0433	1704	1053	2305	0719	1807	2006	0944
30	Tue/Dins	0514	1745	1133	2349	0720	1807	2056	1051

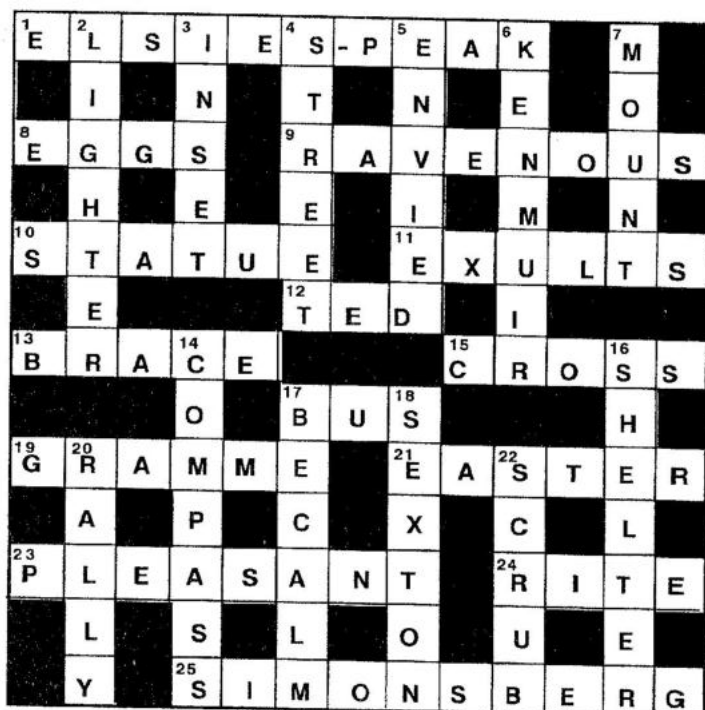
Last Quarter/Laaste Kwartier Apr. 04 1732
New Moon/Nuwemaan Apr. 12 2123

First Quarter/Eerste Kwartier Apr. 20 1446
Full Moon/Volmaan Apr. 27 0501

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11**



Winner of Crossword 11 - James Milne

- Landscaping and planting
- Pruning specialists
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- Tree shaping
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OUTDOOR CONCEPTS

Specialists in Landscape

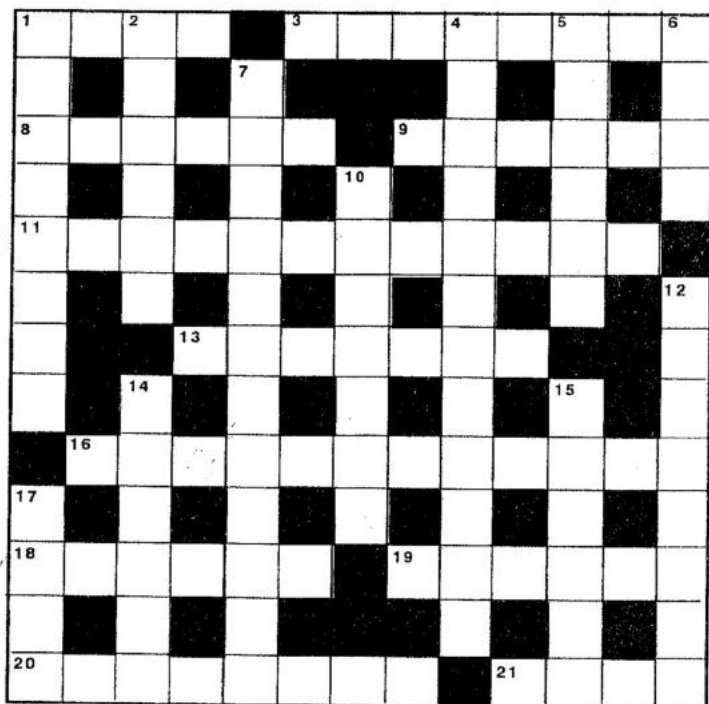
- Bush clearing and fynbos preservation
- Consultations on garden problems

Call: 786-1496 or 082 693 9698 today for a free consultation

CROSSWORD

P U Z Z L E

12



ACROSS

- 1 A blooming strange road in Froggy Farm (4)
- 2 Anything fills abouts fifty returning - from a comedy? (8)
- 8 Entertains the purposes after the morning: causing 3? (6)
- 9 Work silver back close by 1 Acr (6)
- 11 The Aussie cricket team did this after their last series in England. And were England burnt up! (4,3,5)
- 13 Two points precede five acknowledgements of debt. Jealous? (7)
- 16 A deed interrupts short French friend, though only by a tiny amount (12)
- 18 Military engagement in court? (6)
- 19 Blemish on the Church of England? Few and far between (6)
- 20 Wind direction to be expected after Good Friday?
- 21 The image of lazy, they say (4)

DOWN

- 1 Alan asks these people round (8)
- 2 Seizes the place of Puss! distributed by ancient city in the middle (6)
- 4 The way to make a bottle in Glencairn (12)
- 5 A sort of square, with a bolt following, forms a three-legged stand - right? (6)
- 6 Tore around to learn by this (4)
- 7 The monarch of the seas finds it muggy off Red Hill Road (7,5)
- 10 Half a twitch is Hebrew (7)
- 12 All right and extremely fit (4,4)
- 14 Speaks about nothing on the town charges (6)
- 15, 17 The Simon's Town alley in which to burn the cakes? (6,4)

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 Friday 26 April • 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 APRIL 2002

SOPHEA GALLERY & TIBETAN TEAHOUSE:

"Exploring Contemporary Spirituality" Talk led by Merwede van der Merwe, author of "Meditation - a path to Consciousness". **Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 April at 7:30pm**. 2 April, part one, Co-creation. 3 April part two, Enlightenment. R35 including refreshments.

"Art and Islam in South Africa: A Reflection" Talk and discussion by Gebeba Baderoon, Poet and Sainsbury fellow, UCT English Department on **Thursday 9 April at 7:30pm**. R35 including refreshments

Full Day Meditation Retreat

Sunday 12 April 9:30am - 5pm. Led by Merwede van der Merwe, author of "Meditation - a path to Consciousness" R120 including lunch.

"The Wonderful World of Textile & Craft on the back roads of the Middle East"

Talk by filmmakers Paul & Susan Morkel on **Thursday 18 April at 7:30pm**. Slides, stories, artefacts, culture & craft of minority groups. R35 including refreshments.

Communicative Awareness Retreat.

A 2 day workshop by Dr Anna Slabbert on **Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 April 9:30am - 5pm**. We often forget that everything we think, we say, we do, we are, is communication and flows from our original intent, either consciously or unconsciously. So if we want to have meaningful relationships we need to become aware of our communication and acquire the ability to create "shared meaning". Day 1 - Communication and the 7 Senses. Day 2 - Communication and the 3 Relationships plus Communication and the 4 Dimensions of the Self. R300 including lunches. *Space limited - booking essential: Please contact Sophea Gallery 786-1544 or 082 896 6426.*

SIMON'S TOWN MUSEUM LECTURE

17 April "The Legacy of Jan Smuts"
Penny Grimbeeck, formerly Curator of the Smuts House Museum at Irene, will present a talk on the life of this famous South African.

SIMONS TOWN SENIOR CITIZENS COMPUTER CLUB

Monday 15 April - A new programme of training classes in the use of computers begins in

the PC Centre, Simon's Town High School. For more details call Jane Pallett on 786 1020

BOOK SALE

Friends of Simon's Town Library will be holding one of their popular book sales on Friday 12 April outside Simon's Town Pharmacy. We would also like to take this opportunity of asking for donations of books towards these sales (not magazines!). Please call 786-3890 and arrangements will be made to collect such donations.

DINNER ABOARD

"THE ROARING FORTIES"

Floating Restaurant, based at Cole Point Simon's Town on Saturday 13 April. Tickets are limited and are R80 per head. Available from St Luke's Office at False Bay Hospital 9am - 12:30pm Monday - Friday. Call 782-7696, otherwise for more info call Margaret Collet 786-1362. This function will be assisting St Luke's community nursing sister Margot and her team of caregivers, to care for our growing number of patients presently under treatment.

FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE:

Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18 April, 7:15 for 7:30pm, at the Museum Hall, Court Rd, Simon's Town. Guest speaker is Mr Andy Grubb, Manager of Wild Life Society of South Africa, Western Cape (WESSA) and will discuss current and future projects of WESSA in the Western Cape. For more info call 786-1072.

Saturday 20 April at 9:30am: Alien vegetation hack and planting of indigenous coastal shrubs. Meet at the South end of Links Crescent, Simon's Town. For more info call 786-3890.

Sunday 28 April at 9:30am: All day walk with Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group to Noordhoek Peak. Meet at No 1 Gate, Silvermine Nature Area (Normal entry fees payable). For more info call 789-1334. *For all day walks bring suitable clothing for changeable weather as well as some refreshment for "morning tea" and lunch.*

Deadline for May edition

Friday 26 April 2002

Next Publication Monday 6 May
Contact Sue Sturman on 786 5798 or 786 2436 for **forthcoming events only**. Payment for Snoek Town Calling will no longer be accepted at these premises.