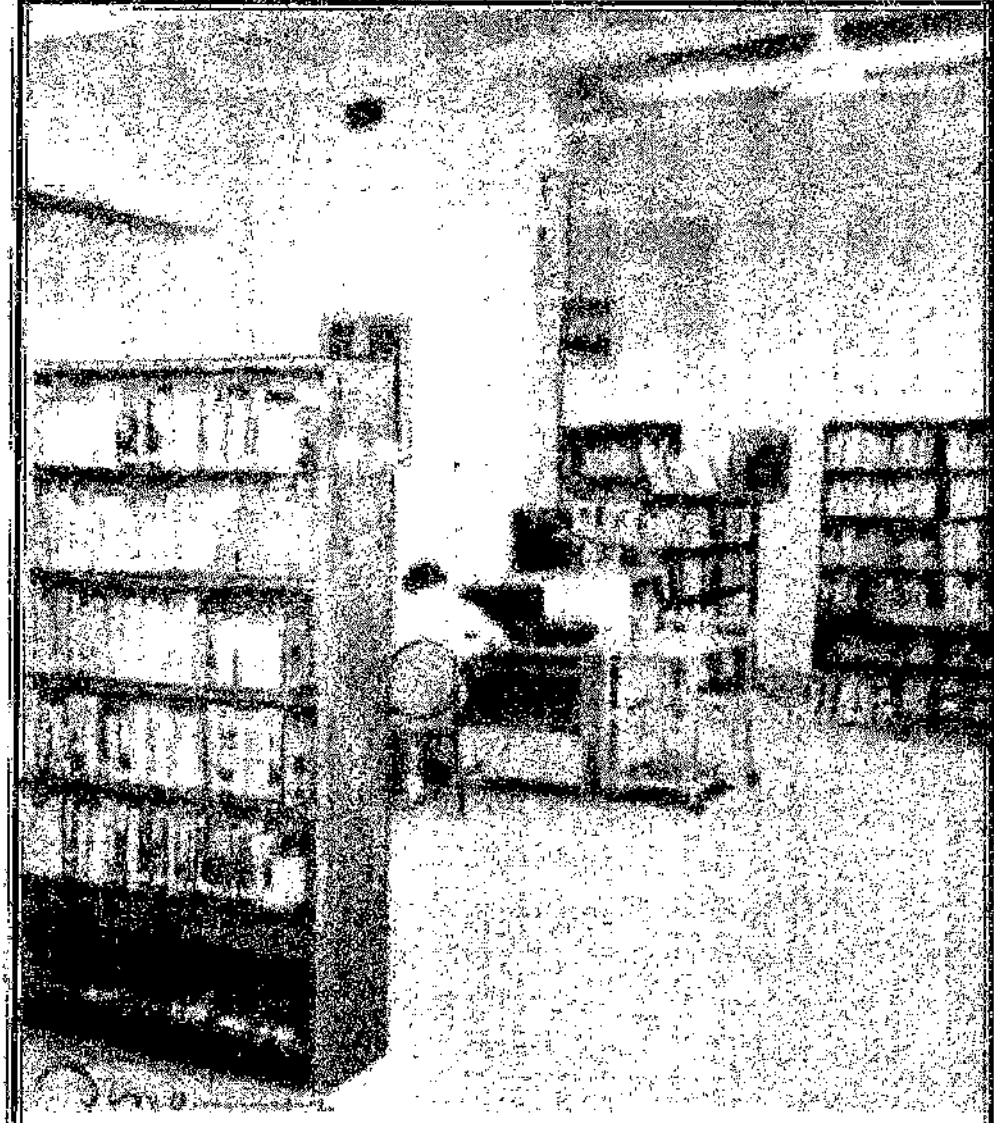
SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 4 Issue 12 3 June 2002



Simon's Town Library

June Sponsor - Anonymous; Visitor from Down Under

The Simon's Town Library

Tracing the history of our library in Simon's Town has come up with a few gaps regarding the exact location of the library throughout the years.

Records show the library to be established in 1884, but it is not clear where. A report in the Wynberg Times dated February 15th, 1890, states that: "The Public Library has been moved from the dingy and inconvenient room it so long occupied into more becoming premises, the Municipal Office, which has been partitioned off for the purpose. Although the room is very small, it is an improvement.

Residents remember the library being housed together with the municipality in the building in which Patel's is today as far back as the 1940s.

Possibly somewhere in the Sixties the library moved again, this time to the building next to the old municipal building, which used to be where woodwork was taught when both buildings were still part of the school.

After extensive renovations, the library was moved to its present location in October 2001, when the entire building was allocated to the library to be used for community affairs.

Editor's note: This story appear incomplete and any further information will be welcome. Please contact the Librarian if you can be of any assistance.

Editorial

So we've all received the new property valuations - what a shock! but not really unexpected when the current selling press of houses in Simon's Town are taken into account. Next comes the agony: what will the tax rate be? My guess is, at least double - let tax rate (cents per rand of valuation) will go down but because of the substantial increase in value the net payment due will increase substantially. Hard times ahead and some tough decisions will have to be made.

Now for the awkward and difficult part of this editorial - I concerns our Simon's Town Ratepayers Association. It is my carefully considered opinion that it be dissolved and revert back to its original founding structures of Simon's Town Ratepayers and Residents Association, and the Glencairn Civic Association. The STCA was a political dream which could not work out in practice. Already, some of the component wheels have fallen off and the remainder are destined to fall off in due course, then - dead stop.

The basic philosophy behind it is proposal is as follows:

1. Residents of Simon's Town should not be making decisions about matters that directly concern residents of Glencairn - for instance, the Glencairn Vlei, Glencairn beach, the battle store in the 7-Eleven, etc.

2. Similarly, it is inappropriate for residents of Glencairn to be making decisions about Jubilee Square, Boulders Beach, the penguin problem, parking in the CBD, etc. Indeed, the Glencairn residents normally do their business in Fish Hook (or Longpoint Mall), and seldom visit Simon's Town on business.

The two Associations can always co-operate when the need arises. This was and

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cessfully done in the past - ask Jack London.

Now having stuck my neck out, perhaps it would be advisable for me to ask Blackie Swart to lend me one of his bullet-proof vests.

Reg Loxton
Editor
2 Chapel Road
Tel/Fax 786-1750

Down the Historical Mile

O! magtie, groaned Clara Fijnbosch, Snoekie is in a state of severe shock - the property valuations are out and there is only trouble ahead: hoe to pay the tax increase, which some people say could be as much as double.

Ja, said Harold Hardekop, only bad news and misery, and he told the story of how he and Wingnut Williams overheard a conversation among three men at an outside table drinking coffee and debating the problem of new rates and taxes. The one oukie complained that his property in Mount Pleasant had increased in value ten times since the last valuation in 1991. So if this true that the tax could double, he would have to sell up and go live in the Karoo. Not the Big Karoo, said his mate. There you will freeze in winter,; better you go to the Little Karoo, where it's not so cold: Like Barrydale or some such country dorp, where you can buy a good house for less than R200 000.

Ja, said Mientjie Boep-pens; she knows of at least ten people who have taken that option - but some only go as far as Fish Hoek. Then, said Mientjie, there is the case of a lady who could no longer afford the rent and moved to Riviersonderend, where rent is much cheaper.

And so the talk went on at the May meeting of SLAP: what people have to do when they get beaten by cost of living in Simon's Town. Now, Meneer die Voorsitter, ek stel die vraag: we need to classify the various options - of course that was Stoffel Boesman, in his usual pompous way - let us identify the categories of what people can do when faced with the rates crisis. Of course this doesn't apply to SLAP, because none of us pays any rent. Anyway, this is what Stoffel had to say:

1. The Barrydale Option: a property owner is overwhelmed by the rates increase, so he sells his property and buys a much cheaper place in the Little Karoo - he makes a profit and lives happily ever after.

2. The Riviersonderend Option: this person owns no property in Simon's Town but rents a flat. Due to increased rates, the landlord ups the rent, which the tenant can't afford. So he gives up and moves to a place like Riviersonderend and where rental is much cheaper.

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3. The Koos Delport Option: Koos had a fishing boat and lived in a smart apartment, but unfortunately he was overtaken by increasing cost of living and depreciation of the purchasing power of his fixed-income retirement. Koos was determined to remain in Snoekie, so he sold his boat, resigned his membership of the Yacht Club and went to live in a granny flat.

4. The Good-time Gertie Option: Now, Gertie is a pensioner who refuses to downscale her living standards to accommodate the depreciation in value of her pension - she wants to enjoy the standard of living she was accustomed to at the time of her retirement. So she screams for financial support - and if she screams loud enough, she may get help from the Simon's Town Trust.

So endeth the lesson according to Stoffel. Well, exclaimed Harold Hardekop, it sounds very difficult and complicated - better I just do the best I can around Jubilee Square.

Streetwalker

The Simon's Town Trust

(Incorporating the Barflow Trust)

The assets of the Trust as at the 28th February 2002 totalled R668,842. Investment Income for the year was R58,087 while distributions amounted to R5700.
The Trust Deed covers the provision of assistance to long term residents of Simon's Town (including those subject to forced removal) who are aged over 60 and have a current, index linked, income of under R2380 per month.

Applications should be posted to The Trustees, Simon's Town, PO Box 267, Simon's Town.

IB Allan - Trustee/Treasurer

Snoektown Calling Supporters Club

1. Individual:
Regular visitor from Downunder R2000.00
Royden & Wanda Poole R300.00
2. Corporate:
Nil
3. Associations
Nil

Simon's Town Civic Association

The Simon's Town Company
There has been a good response to the STCA committee's request to local civic groups to list what kind of services they expect from the Section 21 company we are forming. Most of them have submitted lists of objectives and given their views on the principles of The Simon's Town Company, as it will be named, and more are expected. They range widely and cover many subjects from promoting tourism and business to security, cleansing and traffic control. They are being correlated now and all the STCA member organisations - business, environmental, cultural, tourist - will be asked to send delegates (their chairpeople if possible) to a meeting to set the company targets.

Several interesting ideas for raising funds for the company were suggested, all of which will be discussed at that meeting.
Some of the submissions warned strongly against two pitfalls: getting too deeply involved in welfare, and doing things we already pay rates and taxes for.

Meanwhile the STCA is going ahead with the company's registration.

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STARTER WITH MAIN-R90.00
MAIN WITH DESSERT-R90.00
FULL MENU-R105.00

Cleanliness and street people

One of the most persistent complaints the STCA has received in recent years has been about the dirtiness of our streets, in particular the Main Road through the heart of Simon's Town.

Litter in the gutters and overflowing rubbish bins are common - not least because of some people who sweep the rubbish from their premises on to the sidewalk or dump it into the pole-mounted street bins instead of into proper garbage bins.

The effect has been commented on by visitors, some of whom, of course, are themselves no slouches at littering.

The STCA and our Ward Councillor, Alderman Nicki Holderness, have long struggled to get the municipality to do something but have been hampered by the huge disruption caused by the switch from the South Peninsula Municipality to the Cape Town megacity.

The biggest hurdle is the city's chronic shortage of money and the council's difficulty of allocating what little they have.

Street people - beggars, self-styled parking attendants and the like - are a recurring problem and have become more obvious here recently since law enforcement services have been taking action against them elsewhere.

They are a situation that will never go away. They are people, the product of of our society, and given the chance some could probably become solid citizens.

Several certainly showed entrepeneurial ingenuity here. They stood at the top of the ramp from Jubilee Square down to the Cole Point parking area and charged unwitting motorists a R5 "entrance fee".

textures

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Our Historical Society raised both issues independently and has received the following letter from Dr Ivan Bromfield, the overloaded Acting Chief Executive Officer of the South Peninsula Administration (which, for those unaware of it, is the old SPM administration absorbed more or less en bloc into the new megacity). He wrote:

"Cleanliness:

"Due to continuous budget cuts, the number of street sweepers has been reduced from a team of fifteen (Fish Hoek area) to a team of twelve, who cover the whole of the SPA (South of Clovelly to Cape Point). One sweeper has now been allocated full time to the Simon's Town Central Business District, including the Historic Mile. The pole-mounted rubbish bins are emptied three times per week. In addition an ad hoc team will be brought in when available to help out, but this may only be once a week or less. If you have an further queries with regards to Cleansing issues, please contact Leon de Goede at 785 5521.

"Street people:

"Kelvyn Visser, acting Director of Protection Services, informed me that since March 2002 twenty seven arrests have been made. These people are performing community services as part of their sentence. Law Enforcement regards this problem as ongoing and will take regular action."

Glencairn burns:

But under control ... so if you see columns of smoke rising skyward it won't be another Murdoch Valley.

Glencairn residents have received notices from the SPA that two controlled burns will be carried out in the Glencairn Vlei in May and June. Exact dates are not known because the weather conditions have to be just right.

Both burns will be so timed with wind forecasts that the smoke from the fires will be blown away from houses but residents are

HEATHER LUNDERSTEDT ESTATES cc

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I WISH WE'D NEVER COME TO LIVE IN THE GREEN BELT!

THE AGENCY WITH THE "DIFFERENT" APPROACH

advised to close doors and windows and bring washing indoors when they see the veld burning.

A strong fire fighting force will be standing by to keep the burns in check.
One burn will be of stacks of alien vegetation, mainly rooikrans, recently cleared by the SPA in the upper part of the vlei. The other burn will take place in the wetter part. A section of reedbeds will be left intact in the middle to provide safe haven for otters and water that grooves until indigenous vegetation has recovered enough to establish itself.

A meeting of the Friends of the Glencairn Vlei will be held at St Andrews Church, Glencairn Road, at 2 pm on Saturday, May 26, about rights and responsibilities in controlling, burning, planting and the future. It will be followed by a conducted walk around the vlei, and refreshments. If you want to help conserve this important wetland, please attend.

City finances:
Even the expected big service improvements from Cape Metropolitan Council will be jeopardised if the City Council's finances are in a sad state mostly because of poor financial management.

The council is nearly R1 billion (that's right - billion) in arrears and the chances of recovery from its own resources are minimal because about R1.5 billion of that is overdue by more than 90 days.

Result: the council will have to slash its R2,6 billion capital budget drastically or run into massive deficit. However willing and competent our present city officials may be, there is no way they can meet the city's bills being made on the municipality.

An example of how this impacts on us: There has been a long time confusion over who owns the parking in Beach Street leading down to the jetty on our waterfront. Result: parking chaos.

What Street is Erf 10709 and it is owned by the Municipality but there is a clause in the title deed which says that if it is misused for access to the jetty, it must revert to the state - ie, the Public Works Department.

The PWD is prepared to expunge this clause but for a fee of R270 000, which the council does not have to spare. Result: continued parking chaos.

There is similar confusion at Seaforth and Soek Plek. The latter is State land but the municipality has done all the development work on it. The False Bay Yacht Club is also on State land.

Valuations
By now just about all property owners should have received through the post their new valuations. If not, they should contact the Property Valuation Project at 7501 4th floor.

It is essential that everyone checks their valuation immediately and makes objections, if any, before June 30 so that the process can be completed.

There is not the vaguest hint yet of how the new valuations will be used to adjust our future rates. All we can be absolutely certain of is that they will go up - especially in view of the city's dismal financial state.

Library
Yet another effect of the cash droughts a shortage in the city's very good library service. The effect is shorter library hours, with some having to close early on some days so their staff can help out at others, and vice versa.

Our one 24 year old municipal building is being assessed by the Friends of the Library,

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membership of which costs a minuscule R5 a year. The library is an invaluable community service - please help by joining the Friends. You can pay at the library.

Apology
Several newsletters ago we said the Navy had spent R80 million on making all its properties in Simon's Town shipshape. We wish. That should have been R8 (eight) million.

Until next time,
best wishes
Wilf Nussey

Simon's Town Business Association

The SBA held their AGM on Monday 20 May. Minutes from the AGM of 2001 were read and accepted.
The Chairman's report covered amongst other items, amendments to the constitution, namely that the Committee now consists of all paid up Members of the Association with a controlling Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and PRO.

The appointment of the Chubb "Bobby on the Beat" wearing traditional uniform (Marius Harmse) has been very successful. Donovan Roberts replaced George Watton as the CPO and together with Marius they do a fine job of policing and patrolling the CBD. It is very important that monthly contributions from members are sufficient to cover salaries. All traders in the CBD feel the benefit of their vigilance and are urged to commit themselves to regular contributions. Tourists, visitors and residents will only spend time in the CBD if they feel safe.

Successful fundraising activities held during the past year were the Navy Band Cabaret, Spring Fair and the Jubilee Square Disco. Special thanks to Chris Kaier, Hester Fourie, Aneela Kalidas, Louise Patterson and Malinda Coetzee for their outstanding efforts.

The SBA through the efforts of Hester Fourie undertook to furnish and equip the local fire station for the benefit of volunteer firefighters on standby duty.

The formation of a Section 21 company and its composition and objectives in the CBD were discussed. It was important that such a company would be representative of all bodies in Simon's Town. Funds generated would be used for extra security for CBD (ATM's a priority) and residential areas, cleaning of streets, beautifying the town, generating tourism and creating employment.

Allowing tour buses to stop on Jubilee Square for 45 minutes had definitely made the CBD more accessible to tourists. A traffic management plan completed in June 2000 had recommended the closure of the access ramp to Cole Point parking area to improve road safety due to the extreme gradiant. This is subject to the availability of funds.

The Treasurer's Report showed an increase in membership to 44 members. It was agreed that the salary of the CPO needed to be increased and extra funding would be needed for this. The future of CPO in relation to the Megacity was discussed. Our CPO would very much like to remain in Simon's Town, and the SBA will do everything in its power to retain his services. The year ended on a positive note with a cash balance of R10,337.00.

Peter Johnson (Chairman), George Bowes (Vice Chairman), Hester Fourie (Treasurer) and Malinda Coetzee (PRO) were unanimously re-elected for a further term of office. Marian Butcher (Secretary) sadly had to stand down due to other commitments and a secretary is yet to be elected.

Ideas for fundraising in the forthcoming year include a cabaret, spring fair/fashion show and a jazz festival on Jubilee Square. Using the web site to publicise forthcoming events was discussed. Dave Hurwitz of the Publicity Association addressed the meeting about amalgamation on the two associations into one body. The majority of members present were in favour of such an amalgamation. It was felt that the objectives of the two bodies were closely aligned and coming together would be mutually beneficial. Mr Hurwitz felt that a new Traffic Management Study should be done so that a more accurate picture could be obtained.

The Chairman thanked all members for their participation and gave special thanks to Marian for her sterling work as secretary. Snacks and drinks were enjoyed by all and the next meeting will be held at Pescados.

Library News

We are hoping to publish a final report to Speedmown Caring on a regular basis, to keep the supporters of our lovely Simon's Town Public Library up to date with library news.

It has now been decided that the upstairs section of the library building in the former Municipal Offices is under the jurisdiction of the library. This means that for the first time we have the space available for holding activities such as outreach programmes and community events. This also means that once the library requirements for this space have been finalised that there may be space for other community activities.

Also, as there are so few activities for local youth, it is hoped that some of these programmes can be aimed at this vital section

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of our community. Due to recent library cuts we will have to establish a volunteer programme in conjunction with the Friends of the Simon's Town Public Library. These activities will mainly be during the school holidays, so we are appealing to anyone interested to "donate" their skills for this programme. For example, workshops for handcrafts, holding a story session, supervising video shows etc. If anyone has any other ideas, please come along and share them with library staff, who will pass them along to the "Friends". Please also let us know if you are prepared to give a few hours of your time to help with these schemes.

We are appealing for volunteers to come in for a few hours each month to help in the library itself. Anyone interested will be given appropriate training to equip them to do this. This is a lovely community service to become involved with, and although it can be hard work, it is also a lot of fun.

Now let some good news! Although the budget cuts for the next financial year are affecting staff, they will not be affecting the supply of new books, so we can look forward to regular injections of new books for the library.

The next lot of good news is that the Reading Garden has been finished and is looking lovely. There are handsome tubs of flowers in a pretty little paved yard, complete with two smart benches where patrons of the library can sit and read or just relax. Do pop in and see it on your next visit to the library. Many thanks to all those involved in creating this asset to the library, particularly Mr and Mrs Hall who not only supplied all the plants, but also did the necessary hard work.

Also, the Friends of the Simon's Town Public Library have bolstered our Art Book collection by buying some special art books.

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making this section of the library much more up to date. These books will be an asset to the library.

Finally, as ever, the Friends of the Library would greatly appreciate any book donations for future fund raising book sales. Do have a look at your book shelves and see if there are any books you can spare for this good cause. Many thanks in anticipation of lots of donations!

Ward Councillor's Report

There will be a full report on the Budget in the next edition

Nikki Holdemess
Ward Councillor

News from Doctor vd Merwe

Dear Patients and Friends

This will be my last contribution to Snoektown Calling from over the big waters. I am very happy to say that my penitence is over and I will able to say a "Tamahnh" to Birmingham soon. It has been good in many aspects i.e. the new knowledge gained and the fact that we could afford to show the children a bit of the outside world during their holiday in the UK. Earning some pounds also did help to ease the pain, but now I want to roam the main road of Simon's Town again, looking forward to being stopped around every corner for a "pavement consultation" or social chat.

The past few weeks have been educational. I spent 25-27 April at the Royal Academy of Music at a British Composer's Forum. It was very interesting to see how the modern music world is developing, but some of it

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sounds like "sweaty door" music if you ask me! I am afraid that my "development" has not gone that far yet. I am also currently doing [illegible] on the role of nutritional supplementation in treating patients with cancer as well as many postgraduate courses in family practice. So – plenty to keep me out of mischief.

For those of you complaining about South African wine, another bit of news that won't make you feel so lonely. England is joining the world race to be a crime capital. The Homerton hospital in Hackney treats 65 kilos of gunshot wounds each month. The Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto (which has a 10 times as many people in its catchment area) sees only 6 times as many such cases. The headline reads "It's official: Hackney is more dangerous than Soweto". Police "sickness" is also becoming a problem, with the equivalent of 8000 police officers across the UK off sick every day – mostly with stress related illness. With all this going on, they still managed to sentence a chap to 6 months imprisonment for retrieving golf balls from a course's lake in Leicestershire. He apparently made £20 000 per year doing this, and declared tax on top of it! His appeal will be heard within 2 months, after he was released (9 days after imprisonment). Many golf stars joint the uproar around the case.

I will be back on duty in 198 Main Road on 28 June. A big thank you to all my patients who remained so loyal to the practice and kept it going over the six months that I was away. Thank you for all your emails and messages of well wishes I received via Anita and Desere. Thank you for looking after Anita and the children in the community spirit so typical of people in the Deep South. Thank you and God bless you all.

Kind regards and frosty West Midlands spring wishes.

Steven van der Merwe

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PROPERTIES

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City Research Reveals What Capetonians Really Want

What are the major needs of Capetonians that should be addressed by local government? Now, for the first time, these needs have been pinpointed in an exhaustive ten month study forming the basis of an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the City of Cape Town.

Conducted by the City's IDP team, the 'needs analysis' covered the entire metropole area of 2 475 km², which stretches from Gordon's Bay right up to Atlantis, and consists of some 3,2 million residents.

The process included extensive research surveys, public and stakeholder consultation, and market analyses. The identified needs have now been translated into strategic ideals for the City which will ultimately determine what and when delivery takes place.

Reflexology and Meridian Therapy - a deep and relaxing treatment on the feet, which stimulates the body to heal itself and is very effective for improving energy levels.

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"The IDP provides us with a framework within which the City can develop its budget and deliver on its strategic pledges to the people of Cape Town.
The new budget, which comes into effect on 1 July 2002, will show clear linkages to the priorities identified by the IDP," says City Mayor, Alderman Gerald Morkel.

"This is the beginning of a new era of greater public participation in local government which will enable the City to improve its delivery to ratepayers," he says.

In a representative household survey, 1200 residents were asked which issues relating to Cape Town's environment were regarded as the most serious. The top issues were virtually unanimous: crime (99%) and unemployment (98%).

Three other aspects of the social environment were viewed as very serious, namely poverty (90%), the incidence of homelessness and street people (89%) and HIV/AIDS (88%).
These and a range of other issues were probed in depth by the IDP team. The areas most affected by such realities were identified according to geographical localities and socio-economic groups.

"From these community needs analyses and a grid of city-wide issues, the key development issues for Cape Town were prioritised," says Dr Greg Munro, the City's Executive Director for Strategy and Policy.

"The foremost priority is to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS. The study found that half of the city's population of 3,2 million people is relatively young - 26 years and younger. Given the young population, the number of people in Cape Town can be expected to grow rapidly as a result of the formation of new households," says Munro.

But a healthy population base is threatened by the increasing incidence of HIV/AIDS,

which also impacts on economic development and social welfare. One of the social implications of AIDS-related deaths is the increase in the orphan population, which is projected to grow by 76% to 88 000 in four years' time.

According to Dr Munro, more than 84% of the residents surveyed said they thought crime, unemployment, homelessness, poverty and HIV/AIDS were getting worse. These were the areas where respondents wanted to see improvement.

"Figures confirm that the average unemployment rate for the city is 20%. Despite advances in housing, the number of informal shacks has grown rapidly, from 28 300 in 1993 to 72 140 in 1998," he says.

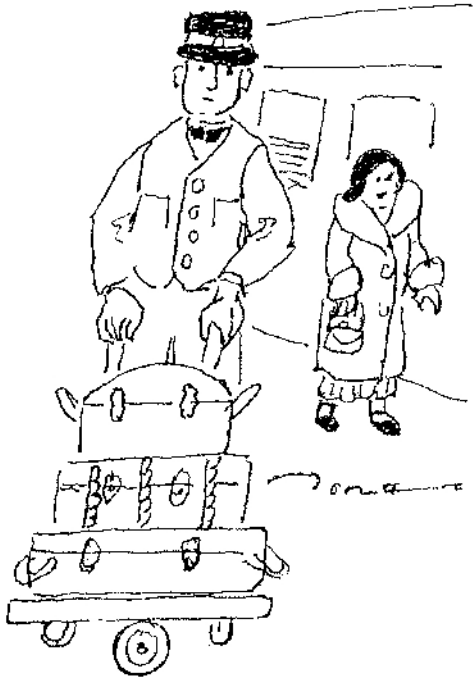
"What is particularly significant about the findings is that many of the needs are interrelated. Poverty, employment, housing and social abuses, including crime, should therefore not be addressed by single initiatives, but rather by integrated ones to ensure maximum benefit," says Alderman Morkel.

Memories of Happy Days - 4

In 1926 Ma bought the Victoria Private Residential Hotel - in other words, a boarding house, No 52 Queen Victoria Street; a very old building with a history. Across the road was a grilled gate, entry into the Gardens. Just inside the grounds was a stone fountain, with water spouting from lion's heads, and metal cups on chains. I longed to use these clanking cups, but Ma said you never knew *who* had used them.. Probably germridden, she said.

The traffic up and down Queen Victoria Street was horsedrawn. There was the vegetable man, who chanted, as his horses clipclopped towards Wale Street, "aatappels en uiwe, wat'iemoen en druiwe, 'n ollap en 'n stywer". 'n Oulap was a penny, a stywer a ha'penny. The Hokey Pokey man rang his bell and called out "Ho-key Pokey, Es-kimo Pie, suckers and ice-cream." Those who plied their trade on foot also had calls: the woman offering homemade yardbrooms cried "Besom, besom, besom, broom, broom, broom" and the flower seller asked plaintively, "Flowees meisies? Tickey a bunss, nice and fress". A story was told of a visitor to Cape Town who, hearing a drawn-out wailing sound, asked a passer-by what in tarnation that noise was. "That's the fish cart," said the passer-by - only, being a Capetonian, he said "cawt". "Good gravy!" said the visitor, "you mean that thing is blown everytime someone catches a fish?"

From the Gardens to the Pier, Adderley Street was a family street. The only municipal finger-wagging was a sign on a pole,



warning "Nie Spoeg. No Spitting"; this sign was on the trams as well. There were few motor vehicles around, but hansom cabs were everywhere, including Adderley Street.

There were no jay-walking rules, and one could cross Adderley Street at any point, for instance, to the Railway Station. Ah! - only the Station had the fascinating smells of coal smoke and carbolic; only in the Station was it possible to explore the delights of slot machines ranged along the platform - a penny in the slot produced a thin wafer of Nestlé chocolate in a red paper covering. And what a thrill when a train came in and stopped, hissing steam, just short of the safety buffers, just when you thought it would crash right through into Adderley Street. The bustle as porters heaved luggage on to barrows and carriage doors slammed. People hurrying out to hail a hansom cab. Cape Town Railway Station was a romantic place.

Simon's Town Community Police Forum

JUNE 2002

OUR AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

The first executive committee meeting held for the new year went off exceptionally well with much enthusiam and bright ideas from all members.

It was felt that a heightened awareness between Police and Public must be developed to help in the fight against crime.
To achieve this the public relations officer and the marketing officer will start a series of meetings in each area of Simon's Town between our SAP personnel and the community to foster goodwill and communications.
The SAP personnel will be able to answer questions you may wish to put to them and give useful information as to how to pro-

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A concentrated marketing campaign will also be started shortly to enhance public awareness of criminal activity and how the man in the street can help to keep our community crime free. It is intended that after a period of 12 months the entire community will be less complacent and more active in keeping our community safe. It is intended to create a better relationship between our policeforce and the public.

VAGRANCY / "PARKING ATTENDANTS"
An ongoing problem for the town with many complaints that the "parking attendants" are often rude and obscene, to put it politely, and that the harassment of visitors and tourists is giving the town a bad name.

It was therefore proposed that we make use of the residents of Happy Valley on a similar basis to that utilised by the major shopping centres. The parking attendants would be given recognisable jackets, have security clearance from the S.A.P. and this scheme be on a trial period of 2 weeks. Parking fees would be on a donation basis only and any bad behaviour would result in the particular attendant being removed. It would be an ideal solution and allow residents to support their local charity, discourage the unofficiation "attendants", and create a situation beneficial to vehicle owners, tourists and residents. This scheme is under consideration with the necessary authorities and a report will be tabled at the next meeting.

THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES
This type of crime is on the increase, especially in Glencairn Heights. Suspects have been pinpointed by our SAP and much success has been achieved to date in smashing the syndicate. Since our forum meeting we have news that arrests of have been effected in Glencairn Heights and good progress made towards eradicating this type of crime have been achieved by Capt. de Pisanie and his staff.

CON MAN ALERT
If you are approached by a repairman dealing in repairs to doors and windows please contact the S.A.P. immediately.

LIQUOR MATTERS
The Simon's Town Bottle store has applied for a wine license for normal trading hours on Sundays. Any member of the community who has an objection to this application must please contact Capt. de Pisanie on 786 2427.

HEADQUARTERS
On Monday 27th May, representations will be made to SPA for the forum to utilise the old Municipal offices opposite the police station as its permanent headquarters. This would ensure a central meeting place for all members, security of information and

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records and would fulfill an urgent need for an ops room with detailed maps of "hot spots", personnel deployments, crime scenes, etc., together with storage space for equipment and materials needed in times of crisis. The office would also make an ideal Joint Operations Command centre in case of emergencies, civil disasters, etc. A report back on the success of this application to follow.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Virginia Pietersen will be presenting a talk at the next NHW meeting on how to approach the "bergies".

There is a possibility that she may be able to find a State roof for them in this area. However, the response from the forum was negative. Happy Valley was originally established for the Simon's Town Bergies but at present there are only two residents from this area and the remaining occupants are from other areas. Some quite far afield. It was felt that the provision of more accommodation would merely increase influx from other areas and create more problems with vagrancy in Simon's Town.

The chairman of the NHW, Mr. Ian Howse commented that residents do not report what they see and to be successful awareness is extremely important. You could be the next victim.

END OF REPORT

We would appeal to the Simon's Town community to be vigilent, caring and concerned about yourself, your neighbour and your community. Report all suspicious actions to the S.A.P.

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Beach Patrol

Although less frequently, this once monthly column is being revived - because the SPA is now catching up with the backlog of previously reported problems. The toilet block at Shelly Beach has been secured with metal gates, sign boards on restrictions are in place on all beaches and the tatty transformer building at Froggy Pond is looking great. Most of the remaining problems are minor and various departments are sorting them out chop-chop!

Still of concern is the muddy and pot-holed entrance to Glencairn station. It needs only a small paved area to tie in with the existing tarred ramp. However, Intersite and Spoornet have been procrastinating for years on this dire necessity. Another concern is the beach catwalk, which is crumbling in places due to wave action. There is also a recently built extension to the car park, which might need resurfacing with gravel to prevent sandblasting. However, since the existing facility is quite adequate, Parks & Recreation together with Roads & Drainage will shortly evaluate the situation.

Between Glencairn and Fisherman's Beach, there are only two beaches that could do with a few improvements. One is Mackerel Bay, that's tatty infrastructure does little to enhance our image among the many foreign tourists, who come to photograph the trek-fishermen. The other is Seaforth, which since it's redevelopment has lost all but one of its magnificent flower-beds.

Finally, let us welcome Trevor Smith to the "hot seat" for those of us with other than nit-picking gripes on beach maintenance. His e-mail address is trsmith@spm.org.za.

Bevan Pank

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News from Simon's Town Dockyard

SA Naval College Open Day
SA Naval College, the unit where SA Navy Officers are trained, will open its gates to the public on Saturday 1 June from 09:00 to 17:00. The aim of this event is to inform the local community about the roles and functions of the college and ultimately, the SA Navy. Entry is absolutely free.

A host of exciting events and displays are planned including:
- Mock attacks by our well trained SA Navy divers
- Free boat rides
- Rescue displays by the National Sea Rescue Institute
- Displays by the South African Police and Helderberg Emergency Services
- Dog shows
- Static displays of weapons and equipment used by the SA Navy
- An inshore Patrol Vessel will also be open to visitors

Tea garden and lots more.

The day will end with a traditional Sunset ceremony carried out by the students on course at the Naval College.

As various displays include high speed boats, it is requested that areas around the Northern wall, Harbour Island and Gordon's Bay Beach be kept clear between 11:00 - 12:00 and 14:00 - 16:00.

Various explosives and flares will be sued throughout the day and will cause a degree of noise. These items are necessary for the displays to be effective but their use will be kept to an absolute minimum.

We therefore apologise for any inconvenience the noise may cause and caution the public to take the necessary precautions with sensitive pets.

Future of SA Navy Fleet Charted (but local shipbuilding unlikely)

The South African Navy (SAN) has charted out the shape of its fleet over the next 20 years. "Last year I commissioned a Navy review, which looked at the next set of ship replacement programmes, at the requirements imposed by the Defence White Paper, at transformation, and so on, and this review was accepted by the Defence Minister in November," reveals Navy Chief Vice-Admiral Johan Retief. "We're now using this document as a guide into the future," he explains.

While public attention is focused on the corvettes and submarines now under construction in Germany, the SAN, given the strength

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of the acquisition process for modern warships, must already consider the next round of re-equipping, even if the entry into service of any new vessels is at least a decade away.

After the corvettes and submarines are delivered, the fleet (disregarding small patrol boats) will also contain four patrol minesweepers, bought second-hand from Germany and which are already over 40 years old, four minehunters, built to SAN order but now some 25 years old, and two combat support ships - the SAS Drakensberg, designed and built in Durban, and also 15 years old, and the Ukrainian-built SAS Outeniqua, now 12 years old. (There is also a 30-year old hydrographic survey ship, the SAS Protea.)

All will have to be replaced over the next 20 years. "As far as the replacement of the minesweepers and minehunters is concerned, we're looking at a class of multipurpose vessels," reports the Admiral. "These would have the same hull and machinery, but different equipment and weapons configurations for patrol, minesweeping, minehunting and even hydrographic survey," he elucidates.

It would be quite feasible to convert such a vessel from one role to another, should the requirement exist. It is not clear how many such craft would be ordered - a one-for-one replacement programme would produce at least eight.

One thing quite clear - those craft assigned the minesweeping role would execute it using remote-controlled minesweeping devices, which are becoming increasingly popular with navies across the world and greatly reduce minesweeper acquisition costs, because, with such equipment, the ship no longer has to enter the minefield itself and so does not need the increasingly expensive systems and materials required to reduce the chances of the minesweeper itself activating a mine.

"These multi-purpose vessels will probably appear in SAN service in the next decade; however, the operations requirement (OR) for them has not even been drawn up yet," says Retief. Further into the future lies the replacement of the combat support ships. "But, bear in mind the timescales - we're talking about late in the next decade," cautions the Admiral.

In this regard, South Africa's involvement in peace-support operations has led the SAN in a new direction in its planning. The idea is that the combat support ships be replaced by vessels known in international naval jargon as LPDs, popularly called 'landing platform docks'.

These are large - but not larger than the Outeniqua - ships designed to execute and support landing operations; they carry landing craft in a

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floodable dock at the stern (rear) and have a flightdeck and hangar to embark and operate helicopters; and possess accommodation to carry up to a battalion of troops, their equipment, and vehicles. But, as they do not have the extremely expensive weapons systems of the corvettes, they are not very expensive to buy.

"An LPD is basically a big steel box," points out Retief. To help shape their thinking, the SAN has requested and received briefing about the Dutch Rotterdam-class LPDs and about the Singapore Endurance-class.

"From a regional deployment point of view, LPDs are probably the most useful ships you can have - in addition to landing troops and flying off helicopters, they can refuel and resupply other ships, so they would be better than acquiring another tanker," he explains.
It is likely that two LPDs may be bought.
"But we expect the OR for them to be completed only in 2012 - fairly far off, and we can expect a lot of refinement in our thinking before then," he adds.

Still, buying LPDs would transform the abilities of the entire National Defence Force, giving both the Army and Air Force a mobile base, and being capable of landing and picking up personnel and equipment entirely independently of any harbour.

It is unlikely that future naval acquisition programmes will see the local construction of vessels for the SAN, reports *Engineering News*.
"I will not support a local building programme unless we may commit ourselves to ordering a ship every 12 to 18 months - only in this way will capacity be built and maintained," asserts SAN Chief Vice Admiral Johan Retief.
"It is not good business to build ships in a stop-start fashion," he points out.

Building warships would require local shipyards to make certain investments, and to

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do this they would have to have guaranteed orders.
In this regard, the local industry has had bitter experiences in the past.

The locally-designed and -built combat support ship, SAS Drakensberg, proved to be one-off and much of the expertise gained from that programme has been lost. More seriously, there was the case of the strike-craft construction programme in the early 1980s - to complement the three built abroad, a local shipyard was promised a building programme of 9, to produce a flotilla of 12 vessels.

On that basis, the yard made all the necessary investments but, in fact, only six strike craft were ordered - a 33% cut in the programme. The effect on the shipyard can easily be imagined, and the Navy never wants to put the local industry through that again. Of course, the final decision on who will design and build the proposed multi-purpose vessels and LPD amphibious ships does not lie with the SAN.
"As with the corvette and submarine programmes, these will be national programmes and the decisions as to who gets them will be made by the government," he points out. Meanwhile, to release personnel for training on the new ships now being built in Germany, and to reduce running costs, the current fleet has undergone significant downsizing over the past 12 months. "We're disposing of as much old equipment as possible as fast as possible," reports Retief.

Of the SAN's Daphne-class submarines, one (SAS Spear, ex-Maria van Riebeeck) has been permanently decommissioned, reducing the flotilla to only two boats.

The disposal of the four Ton-class minesweepers has also been approved by the Minister of Defence.
Perhaps most dramatically, the strike craft

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flotilla has been reduced by 30%, with four of the remaining eight vessels decommissioned and their disposal now being awaited. (The first of the nine strike craft, SAS Jan Smuts, was disposed of in 1998).

It is not yet clear what will happen to the vessels on the disposal list - the SAS Spear might become a museum; while the surface vessels will probably be sold for scrap. This is, however, not in the hands of the Navy.

In addition to the downsizing of the fleet, the Durban Naval Base is being scaled down to a 'Naval Station'.
Despite Durban's strategic importance, and valuable location on the Indian Ocean, the present and future size of the SAN's fleet hardly justifies the maintenance of two full naval bases.

Keith Campbell
Engineering News Contributing Editor
Reprinted, by kind permission, from Engineering News, May 3.

NSRI Station 10 Simon's Town

May 2002
We are now, seemingly, on the way to winter although it is risky to make such statements when the weather patterns are as unpredictable as we have recently experienced. I mean from hour to hour it is dfficult to decide what to wear or whether to stay indoors and work on the computer or go out and plant those bulbs. One goes to the beach all muffled up to walk the dogs and when you get there you wonder why you didn 't wear shorts and sandals so that you could shed the sandals and wade in the inviting water! I would, nevertheless, rather be here than elsewhere.

Not withstanding that along with the cold fronts that slide across the skies come some of the most treacherous seas in the world and it is when the sea is usually at it 's worst that unwary crews are trapped by violent conditions and accicents occur.
Such was the case on the 1st of May when Station 10 was requested to assist in the search for suvivors or the wherabouts of the 9 metre crayfish craft "Milly" which had been reported missing .

The wave rider "Eddie Beaumont" was towed to Kommetjie and launched there. Lee Adcock was coxswain. Dave Jenkins & Jackie Meiklejohn , crew. A parrallel search was carried out in conjunction with Rescue 8 and Rescue 8(a). When Rescue 8 was ordered to a position 12 miles west of where we were the smaller craft were stood down and returned to the slip without any success. They landed at 12:45 and returned to the rescue base at Simon 's Town.

At 12:10 on the 17th of May Port Captain requested assistance for the fishing vessel "Grant" that reported they had a crew member who was not breathing. At 12:45 "Spirit of Freemasonry" was launched and proceeded to the area that was approximately 12,5 nautical miles south south west of Cape Point. Confirmed crew were Geoff Burchell, Coxswain, Louis Duimelaar, Lee Adcock and Paul Alexander. Darren Zimmerman and Micheal Roberts manned the 4x4 mobile, which acted as radio-link. On arrival at the scene Paul Alexander, a qualified A.E.A, was transferred onto the vessel at 14:10. He assessed the patient who had been revived by fellow crew members after he had stopped breathing. Metro Rescue responded to the area aboard a Court Helicopter and the casualty was winched on board the helicopter at about 15:15. Paul Alexander was recovered from the F/V "Grant" and the rescue craft returned to Simon 's Town and was recovered at 16:34. This description of the rescue is a master bit

of understatement as there were enormous seas running at the time and the transfer of the medic from the rescue craft and his subsequent return must have been achieved by tremendous seamanship from the Coxswain and his crew.

On Wednesday 22nd of May a call was received from Clive Mortimer of Station 26 to assist with a casualty that had run aground by sending Station 10's 4X4 mobile to Kommetjie Crayfish Factory to relay communications. Whilst en-route the mobile was rerouted to the position of the casualty. Rescue 26 was already at sea but could not get to the position of the casualty which by then was well and truly on the beach. They eventually found the boat ashore at Olifantsbos. They assisted the crew members ashore using life jackets, life rings and relay warps bringing them through the surf taking them back to Scarborough using Sea Rescue & Metro Rescue4x4 's. The vessel was left to salvage experts to decide what to do and all rescue personnel then left the scene. What a sad end to the existence of a beautiful craft!

Station 10 is very sad to say goodbye to an experienced crew member in the person of Russel Wright for a period of at least six months and perhaps longer. Russel has been an invaluable member and will be sorely missed. We however are pleased to welcome new members Bradley Theubus and Cassie Carstens and we hope their stay with us will be long and fruitful. A navigation Course begins on Monday 27 May for six of our crew members.

Please Simon 's Town, support the Station 10 Golf Day at Simon 's Town Country Club on Monday the 17th of June which I can assure you is a public holiday. Take care when venturing on the briny and if trouble comes unbidden to bug you call us we are always there to help you!!

Yours aye
Don Dolley
Member Station 10

Our Four Independents

As most of us know, four independent estate agents in Simon's Town have a good knowledge of our region and are involved in community service in various ways. Yet many home buyers and sellers go it alone, without recourse to any governing body to arbitrate or recompense - in cases of dispute and fraudulent behaviour. Buyers also risk non-disclosure of latent defects, zoning and known future developments - which might even include a squatter camp!

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the guidance can make it. Dealing with obvious amateurs, who are not allied to a reputable agency and operate from home only for pin-money.

The four independents have been in business long enough to recognise both obvious datsuns and sailing ponies. They don't just waffle about incidents like inexperienced agents. Whilst do they have the annoying habit of sewing their boards on sideways after a sale, so let's support them!

Bevan Pont

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Peninsula Tourism

April/May

After a remarkably busy Summer/Autumn season stretching from November to the end of March this year, April and May have been relatively quieter months at the Simon's Town Information Bureau. Nevertheless there has been a noticeable, steady influx of "more mature" tourists mainly from Britain, Germany as well as South Africa and Zimbabwe. These visitors enjoy the peace and lack of crowds in the quieter season and deliberately avoid the more lively school holiday periods.

Simon's Town is also a popular honeymoon destination and many local establishments welcome couples with champagne or wine and flowers. We have recently booked accommodation for several honeymoon couples from Britain and the EU countries.

The Bureau is receiving a number of phonecalls, letters and emails regarding holiday accommodation available for the forthcoming Christmas/New Year season. Local residents planning to be away from home during that period can become "temporary members" of Peninsula Tourism. Most visitors want to rent accommodation close to beaches (safe for swimming) and many request good sea views. The most sought-after areas in recent years have been Boulders/Seaforth and Murdoch Valley. For further information please contact Sue or Beverley on 786-2436 or 786-2796.

Peninsula Tourism staff from several branches travelled to Durban this month to attend the International Tourism Indaba. Simon's Town was represented by Frans Hollenbach of the Boulders Beach Guest House.

Warm congratulations are due to Jeremy Wagner and the hard-working staff at Quayside Lodge for obtaining a four-star rating by the Tourism Council. This is a great

achievement and Peninsula Tourism Simon's Town is very proud to be associated with this outstanding attractive, well-run hotel. An increasingly popular venue for conferences, Quayside attracts business visitors to the town.

Unfortunately I must end this article on a very sad note - in mid-May my colleague Beverley Stacey and I were deeply shocked by the tragic news that one of our youngest colleagues, Thorn Lehlehla had passed away very suddenly at the age of 22. Thorn spent almost two years working at the Simon's Town office and was very popular with tourists and local residents. Last year, due to transport problems, he was transferred to the Peninsula Tourism Information Bureau at Kirstenbosch. He will be greatly missed and we send deepest sympathy to his mother and family.

Best wishes
Sue Sturman

Up-Market Restaurants

The feedback from last month's article on "Losing Business" was that the main road - besides Jubilee Square - should voluntarily be restricted to parking for tourists during peak season.
Perhaps this is acceptable, in return for a better deal from up-market restaurants. Maybe the rentals are too high, but few pensioners - in particular - can afford to pay their prices. Instead, they trek "up the line" for just as good ambiance and food at far less cost.
Is it not time that ARP&P members were offered a discount - at least in the off-season? This way everyone becomes a winner!

Bevan Pank

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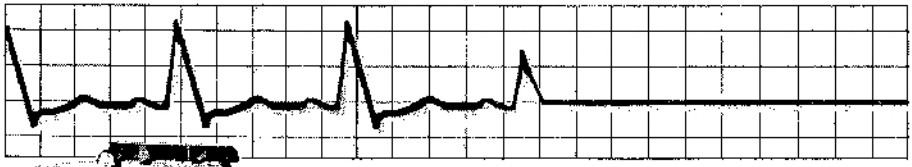

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Property Watch No 39

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 38.

1.2 **Erf No 2298** Simon's Town (Boulders Beach Guest House): Application to rezone from General Residential to Business. Application granted. Matter now closed.

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 38.

1.4 **Erf No 4495**, Cairnside: Application to subdivide into portions. No change from Report No 38.

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 38.

1.6 **Erf No 2212** Glencairn Heights: Application for Bed & Breakfast establishment. No change from Report No 38.

1.7 **Erf No 2464** Forest Hill: Application for subdivision into two parts. No change from Report No 38.

1.8 **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. Matter now closed.

1.9 **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 38.

1.10 **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. It is understood that objections have been received.

1.11 **Erf No. 4043** (Simon's Town): Application for Land Use Departure from single residential to Bed & Breakfast. (Application incomplete).

1.12 **Erf No 1239** Simon's Town (Cnr Forest Hill Rd): Application for re-zoning and possible Removal of Restrictions. (Application incomplete).

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 38.

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 38.

2.3 **Erf 3333** Simon's Town: Offer of R75,000 has been accepted. Matter now closed.

2.4 **Consolidated** and Amended Town Planning and Zoning Scheme Regulations for Simon's Town and Fish Hoek. No change from Report No 38.

Eve Leggatt

Memories of Fishing in the Good Old Days

(because of limitation of space, this manuscript has been shortened - Editor)

For some time now, whenever there has been a gaggle of fishing and just plain drinking types huddled around the bar at Cape Boat, watching the battalions of white horses march down the bay, the talk has drifted to fishing now and fishing then.

We, the James family, came to South Africa in the January of 1948. Through a friend we met Attie Breytenbach who showed us various sites to fish such as the harbour wall at Gordon's Bay, where there were seasonal runs of large Mackerel, Elf, Yellowtail and Kabeljou. I cannot remember a day when one did not get something for the pan here, but also witnessed the other side of the story where people would catch hundreds of large Horse mackerel around 1lb and just go home leaving the fish on the wall.

Further along the Rooi-Els coast one would scramble down the mountainside, being ever cautious of the occasional rogue waves that would come sweeping in out of the deep, submerging rocks that had been dry and safe for hours. Here one would get large Stump and Roman, Blacktail Dassie, Red Steenbras and Butterfish. This remember was in the late 40's and I have been back to these places and have come away mombakkie.

A site that I used to enjoy visiting with the Family and a Czechoslovakian friend Tonda Fiksl was Hangklip. One had to park what seemed miles to me from the Bay, and slog with all one's gear down a narrow sand track through a jungle of Port Jackson and Rooikrans.

Once there however the excitement would begin. The day was always planned that we would arrive at about 10am with a falling tide. All hands would fall in at the water's edge lifting rocks to get the large Coral worms that abounded there. I must admit that I never ever fancied the business ends of these jobbies with their formidable pair of needle sharp pincers that would come out and nip the unwary clumsy young finger. I would check to see if I was being observed and if not would quickly cut off the dangerous bit and then smugly thread the by now harmless critter onto my hook.

Whilst waiting for the tide to turn we would also collect jam tins full of sand fleas, the gewone jumping type found in rotting kelp and here a lesson was learned from one of the best anglers I ever had the pleasure to swing a rod next to, Ed Cottom. Ed would periodically walk down to the water's edge whilst the Braai fire was doing its thing, and scatter a handful of fleas into the gully that ran sea-ward from the shore, boundered on either side by rocky promentaries. As is so often in life things do not happen as one would like them to: we would be perhaps half-way through a most enjoyable braaivleis when Ed would return from one of his flea throwing trips to the by now pushing tide, to announce "they are here". Lunch would be abandoned till later and a scramble for light tackle ensued. Using the smallest hooks available at the time we would thread two or three sand fleas carefully into position so as to cover the hook and flick the morsel into the visible swirls perhaps 15 feet away in the gully. Great was the fun of a take by a large Haader or Baadman.

One hilarious incident I can still see in my mind's eye even today was the time that my Father had rather overstayed his welcome on one of the rocky outcrops on one of these days and the incoming tide had surrounded him, leaving perhaps four or five partially awash rocks that he would be able to hop across on in between waves. The time had come the walrus said. We all watched from

further up the beach and now James senior with rod in one hand, tin of worms in the other and a cigarette in his mouth successfully make his first jump onto rock one. As he took off for rock two an incoming wave hit him up the rear end and at the same time covered the rock he was aiming for. Needless to say he missed and all that could be seen from our vantage point was the tip of the rod and a mouth-stretched can of worms. I ran down the beach with visions of having to drag the parent from the water only to see him emerge on his own accord with his tracksuit pants down around his knees but with cigarette still firmly in position albeit sodden and hanging down parallel to his chin. The rod and worms? Fine, the can of worms did not even get water in.

Brian Jones

The Night Sky

JUNE 2002

The constellation of Orion is no longer visible in the West at Sunset. At the beginning of the month the very bright Jupiter is near Pollux and Venus near Castor. Mars, which is very dim, is visible just above the horizon at Sunset for a few days. At this time of the year the beautiful Milky Way stretches across the Southern sky from east to west and is dominated by the Southern Cross. The brightest star Alpha at +0.8 magnitude is the thirteenth brightest star in the sky, and 320 light years away. It is made up of three separate stars, two of which may be seen with binoculars but the third member is +4.9 magnitude and will only be seen using a large telescope. Beat Crucis Whose Alpha – at magnitude 1.2 is the 19th brightest star in the sky and 350 light years away. Nearby is DY Crucis, a very red star of 9th magnitude.

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Near Beta Crucis is the famous Jewel Box named the "Jewel Box of Kappa Crucis" by Herschel.
This constellation is made up of stars of different colours, red, green, blue, purple and yellow, as well as white ones which dominate this beautiful cluster. It is worthwhile viewing this with binoculars.

Near the Jewel Box is a globular cluster called Omega Centauri, 18000 light years away, which is twenty percent of the estimated diameter of the Milky Way - so it is a huge galaxy. Try finding it using binoculars. If you have seen the two of them, they will never be forgotten!

In this southern part of the sky are the two Magellanic clouds and the Coal Sack, reported in Europe by Magellan who returned from his first voyage around the world in 1552. The Greek Cloud was found, by measuring the Cepheid's variation in brightness), not to be part of the Milky Way Galaxy but an outer galaxy about 112,000 light years away.

The Small Magellanic was calculated to be 101,000 light years away. In this area is the famous Coal Sack, which was thought to be in a part of the Milky Way, where there were no stars. Subsequently it was found to contain stars which give no light and dust which prevents any light from the Coal Sack from reaching us.

On the Ecliptic, Gemini is in the West at Sunset with Venus and Jupiter and the very dim Mars, magnitude +1.7 just above the horizon.
Then come the weak (not bright) constellations of the Crab, and Leo having the bright Regulus on his front foot, Denebola at the tip of his tail. Next in line is Virgo with the bright Spica, and Libra the Scales. Following on the Ecliptic is the large Scorpius, which is our brightest winter constellation.

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with the dominant Red Giant called Antares (the rival of Mars) having a diameter of 600 million miles. Our Sun's diameter is 864,000 miles.

The diameter of Antares is 72% of the distance of Jupiter from the Sun, (484 million miles). The very long tail of the Scorpion (not seen in Europe) contains many bright coloured stars, some are red, others are yellow and green and one is blue.

To the north west of Virgo is the bright gold, coloured star Arcturus in the constellation of Boetes the Herdsman. This is also a double star. In the north east after 10pm is Vega the bright star in Lyra the Harp, opposite Scorpius. Just above the Simonsberg is the sparkling Canopus in the Constellation of Argo, the great ship.

West of it is Achernar at the end of the heavenly river called Eridanus.

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THE PLANETS

Mercury, magnitude +2.9 is visible low in the east before sunrise from 5 June until 13 July. On the 15th it is 3° south of the Moon and by the 24th it is 2° north of Aldebaran in the Hyades, which is part of Taurus.

Venus, magnitude -4.0 will be visible in the west after sunset and in conjunction with Jupiter on the 3rd; on the 9th 5° south of Pollux, on the 13th 1° south of the Moon.

Mars is not visible most of this month as it is too close to the Sun, except for a few days at the beginning of the month.

Jupiter, magnitude -1.9 is visible with Venus in the western sky after sunset in the constellation of Gemini. On the 13th it is 2° south of the Moon.

Saturn, magnitude +0.1 will be visible in the morning sky from the 25th June, having been in conjunction with the Sun on the 9th.

Uranus and Neptune are difficult morning sky objects even when using a telescope.

Pluto is at magnitude +14 in Ophiuchus and is only visible using a large telescope.

THE MOON

There will be a Penumbra' Eclipse of the Moon on 24 July at 10:16pm (22h16). The middle of the Eclipse is at 11:27pm (23h27). The Moon leaves the Penumbra on the 25th June at 0h35min.
New Moon is on the 11th, First Quarter on the 16th, Full Moon on the 24th, Last Quarter on the 3rd. As the Eclipse is always at Full Moon the rain may be lost at this time.

THE SUN

On 1 June Sunrise is at 07:43, Sunset at 17:45hrs. On 30 June Sunrise is at 07:53, Sunset at 17:48hrs.
The Winter Solstice is on the 21st at 15:09hrs when the Sun has reached the

most northerly position at 23½° over the Tropic of Cancer, it being midwinter here in Sirhon's Town. Over 20,000 years ago the Greeks named the northern tropic the Tropic of Cancer and the southern tropic the Tropic of Capricorn, as the Sun was in those signs of the zodiac at that time.

However, due to the precession of the Equinoxes the Solstice on the 21st June occurs in the constellation of Taurus and the Summer Solstice on December 22nd is when the Sun is in the constellation of Sagittarius. In a modern world of computers and IT high-tech etc we should keep up to date with the natural phenomena and make this correction immediately. Will somebody take it up with the international Union of Geographers on my behalf and call the Tropics by their correct names, the northern Tropic of Taurus and the southern Tropic of Sagittarius. Please inform me when the name change takes place so that I may make corrections on my globe and atlases!

The total Solar Eclipse on 4th December remains an item of interest to some. Now is the time to buy your eclipse glasses or welding glasses. An excellent book by Mr Cliff Turk on "Eclipses" is available from the Business Manager, Astronomical Society, PO Box 9, Observatory, 7935 – as are glasses and welding glasses.

Peter van Blommestein

Snoektown Calling Backnumbers

Due to a constant demand for backnumbers of this publication it has been decided to make such numbers available on a more accessible basis. Some of the issues are in very short supply! Phone Peter or Mike at 788-1981. The price per copy is R5 and will go to a worthy welfare cause.

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Neighbourhood Watch News and Views

All our local news papers have articles on crime and related topics so there is often a lot of repetition. The Police Forum, the SAPS through inspector Store, Chubb and NW News all give us news on crime and the protection of Simonstown.

In future NW News will concentrate on specific issues that need to be highlighted and give suggestions as to how the problems can be tackled. Your input here is vital so please contact me and rattle ny cage!!!

This month is the month of the VAGRANTS IN SIMON'S TOWN.
This subject comes up at every NW and Forum meeting as it is a growing problem that will not just go away.We have our regular homeless people who have made Simonstown there harbour and generally behave quite well but now there are reports of increasing numbers of vagrants coming into the town. As we all know vagrancy is no longer an offence. Only when a public nuisance is created can the police take action. Our Bobby on the Beat does his best to keep the peace in this area.

The head-on "move them out" approach does not work. Years of experience tell us this but now if the numbers are growing what can we do about it?

Happy Valley takes in the homeless but no drinking or drugging is allowed so they cant go there. They prefer to sleep out atleast in the summer so they are a specific group of people who need a special professional approach.

At the next NW meeting on Tuesday 11th of June Ms.Virginia Petersen will address the NW representatives and give the local government view on how to approach this problem in a positive way and how we could get assistance with this group of homeless people.

Ms.Petersen is the Superintendent- General, Head of Dept. of Social Services of the Cape Provincial Administartion. Ms.Petersen is a resident of Simon's Town and is au fait with the situation here.

The meeting will be held at 1700hrs in the conference room at the Lord Nelson Hotel. All are welcome. This is OUR PROBLEM.

Ian Howse 786 1442

Chubb Hints

Employers need to protect their staff and their possessions as well as the company property from both employees and strangers with criminal intent. Systems need to be set in place to prevent or monitor theft, fraud and criminal acts committed by employees and others in the workplace.

The Business Office

- Business is expected in terms of the law to do all that is reasonable to provide a safe and secure working environment. Business is also expected to identify and remove or reduce hazards and provide appropriate information and training for staff in these matters.

- Businesses should have comprehensive safety and security policies that should be written, given to all staff members and diligently implemented. Constant monitoring is necessary to ensure that the standards are being met.

- A responsible person must be officially appointed in terms of the Occupational Health & Safety Act. It is advisable to follow the same practice for all security planning and implementation since it centralises responsibility and liaison with one person.

- Belonging to a Business Watch is recommended as it adds to the general security of the business and provides support in an emergency.

- Business offices or premises require physical security measures, practical security measures, emergency safety measures, staff safety & security training and industrial safety management.

Physical security measures

- Business premises should be protected by a burglar alarm system and the perimeter of the property should be demarcated, monitored and well illuminated without inhibiting the vision of security staff.

- There should be a single entrance and exit to the business premises to channel, control or limit movement of pedestrians and vehicles. Use should be made of physical barriers because they provide a psychological deterrent and reduce the need for additional security guards.

- Bona fide employees should have access badges or cards.

- Access of visitors should be controlled to the extent that they are not permitted beyond a certain point unless they can be vouched for and, if necessary, accompanied by a bona fide employee.

- All exits should be monitored & controlled and steps should be taken to ensure that emergency escape routes cannot be used by criminals for entry and/or exit.

- Exits should also be monitored and controlled to detect if any business assets, goods or products are being removed from the premises without authority.

- There should be additional control measures within the business premises to ensure that sensitive areas are appropriately protected.

- There should be a structured and controlled key system so that original and duplicate keys are always accounted for.

- High-security lock cylinders with registered keys that can be made only with authorized signatures should be used where appropriate.

- Provision should be made for staff members who carry handguns to secure them whilst at work.

- Provide all staff members and on-site contractors with secure lock-up facilities for the safekeeping of their belongings (especially handbags and purses) whilst they are at work and particularly while they are away from their work stations.

- Surveillance over the premises (and the property) should be achieved through the use of closed-circuit TV systems and particular attention should be given to sensitive areas. Effectively planned CCTV can prevent or deter criminal acts by eliminating opportunity and providing detection.

- Protective lighting should be provided for sensitive areas and especially vehicle parking areas used by employees, visitors and company vehicles. Care should be taken to avoid blinding or highlighting security staff on patrol.

- Appropriate and unambiguous signage must be provided throughout the premises (and the property) on possessing, unauthorised access, unsolicited visitors, hawkers, speeding, unsafe work practices, searching policies and prohibited articles.

- Symbolic signage, as promulgated by the South African Bureau of Standards, is generally recommended.

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Chubb ARMED BEST SERVICE

Glencairn Heights Community Patrol Service

On Saturday 11 May, the residents of Glencairn Heights met with all the Community Patrol Officers at the Glencairn Shopping Centre. The meeting was a great success as the Chubb team could identify the specific needs of the community thus allowing us the opportunity to adapt the service to meet the community's needs.

Glencairn had an increase of theft out of motor vehicle during the third week of May. Glencairn Heights has had no crime reported for the same period.

At present approximately half the residents of Glencairn Heights are paying for the patrol service making it one of the most successful community projects to date.

On the 25th of May, the Patrol Officers met the residents once more and a consultant was present to assist those present who have not yet joined the service.

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City Review

Top-notch radios for City Police

The City's Exco has approved the purchase of trunked radios worth R9,2 milllion and radio equipment of R1,3 million.

This forms part of the City's purchase of radio trunking services for all of its emergency and public services personnel, making it the first city in Africa with a comprehensive communications infrastructure.

The new system will result in significant improvements in the City's ability to react to emergencies and disasters. In particular, the additional 300 City police officers who will be coming out of training at the end of June will require adequate communications capacity.

National Treasury releases funds

The City of Cape Town is to receive an initial grant of R204,8 million from the National Treasury for the 2002/3 financial year.

This is comprised of R105 million for poverty alleviation, R950 000 for Local Economic Development projects, R13 million from the National Electrification Fund, R2 million for sports and recreation and almost R84 000 for infrastructural development.

According to Executive Councillor for Finance, Alderman George Mellet, these are initial grants following the announcement by the National Finance Minister that the total budget allocation for local authorities had increased from R6,6 billion to R8,6 billion.

City Watchdogs to ensure good governance

The City of Cape Town is one of the first local authorities in the country to appoint two oversight bodies to ensure compliance

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with best practices in corporate governance. These are an Audit Committee, comprised of three independent outside members, and a Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA), based along similar lines to its provincial and national counterparts.

"In line with the latest King Report on Corporate Governance, the Audit Committee will monitor the accountability of officials in executing the administrative functions of the municipality," says Glenn Ho, the City's Director of Internal Audit. The City has already advertised for nominees and has drawn up a shortlist.

"SCOPA on the other hand, will act as a mechanism of political accountability and oversight," says Alderman George Mellet, Exco Member for Finance. "This body will complement the workings of the Audit Committee and the Finance Portfolio Committee." A task group will be convened to draft its terms of reference by August 31.

In addition, Cape Town residents will, from 1 July, be able to address any complaints against the City's administration to a dedicated Ombudsman. The City's Executive Committee has approved the establishment of an office for the Public Complaints Commissioner to serve the entire City. To distinguish this post from the national and regional offices of the Public Protector, clear protocols will be developed between these respective offices. Once established, the Complaints Commissioner is to co-ordinate linkages with the City's customer care and internal audit departments.

Policy for the Poorest of the Poor

The City's Executive Committee has approved the introduction of a Housing Rental Indigent Policy as part of an integrated debt management policy to help the City's poorest residents. As an interim measure, a sum of R2 million, which had been budgeted for until the end of June 2002, will be allocated to the neediest cases.

Building Plans to go up by 7%

The City of Cape Town has proposed a modest 7% increase in tariffs for building development, land use management and environmental management. These include fees for the issue of building permits, approval of building plans and subdivisions, the removal of restrictions, as well as rentals for outdoor advertising.

"The new tariffs in no way cover the actual cost of the services rendered," says Cllr Brian Watkyns, Exco Councillor for Planning and the Environment. The proposed tariffs will be open for public comment, and only be implemented as from 1 July 2002.

New tourist facilities for Rondevlei

One of Cape Town's most popular wetland sanctuaries is to receive an R80 000 boost to upgrade its tourist facilities.

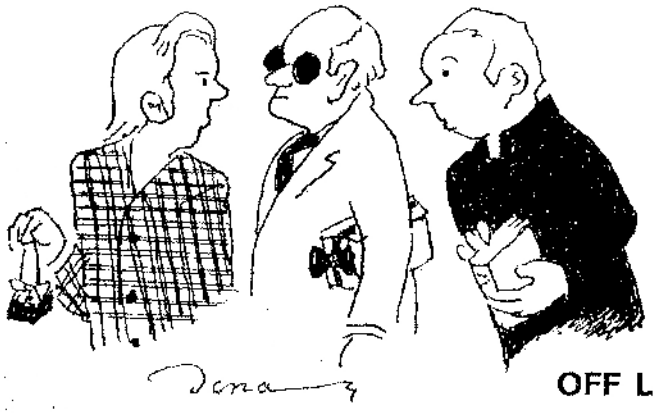
Rondevlei Nature Reserve near Grassy Park is to get R40 000 from the Cape Town City Council and another R40 000 from the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and Tourism.

The funds will be used for the creation of a bush camp, the upgrading of visitor pathways, the establishment of a braille trail and the installation of fixed binoculars at viewing points.

Maps for Outdoor Advertising Areas

The City of Cape Town will soon finalise maps which include scenic routes that plot areas considered unacceptable for outdoor advertising such as posters and estate agent signs.

The maps will be submitted for approval to the various Subcouncils, the Planning and Environment Portfolio Committee, Executive Committee and Council.



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(Alt. Insps. Store/Carstens)		786-2127	
Manu Choudree	Private Security	782-7241	
Geoff Palmer	Marketing Campaign	786-5402	geoffpsa@iafrica.com
Heather Lunderstedt	Public Relations	782-7680	
Ian Howse	Neighbourhood Watch	786-1442	ianhowse@iafrica.com
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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
Wilf Nussey	Communications	786-1368
Bill Rice	Cultural Groups	786-3909
Dirk Van Niekerk	Roads & Traffic	786-1320
Jacky Weaver	Glencairn Vlei	782-5335

JUNE 2002

Date / Day		High Water		Low Water		Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
		Time (IST)	Height (m)	Time (IST)	Height (m)				
1	Sat/Sat	0715	4.061	0918	1.324	0742	1745	2231	1247
2	Sun/Sun	0820	4.178	1024	1.499	0743	1745	—	1510
3	Mon/Mon	0941	4.238	1141	1.551	0744	1744	0028	1746
4	Tue/Tue	1058	4.207	1253	1.394	0744	1744	0128	2045
5	Wed/Wed	1210	—	1359	1.159	0745	1744	0218	2441
6	Thu/Thu	1312	3.945	1454	0.869	0745	1743	0302	2836
7	Fri/Fri	1402	3.674	1542	1.632	0746	1743	0345	3230
8	Sat/Sat	1439	3.459	1627	1.957	0746	1743	0508	1646
9	Sun/Sun	1504	3.401	1651	2.039	0747	1743	0613	1641
10	Mon/Mon	1530	3.356	1715	2.103	0747	1743	0707	1732
11	Tue/Tue	1615	3.351	1800	2.146	0748	1743	0800	1908
12	Wed/Wed	1658	3.421	1908	2.255	0748	1743	0859	1924
13	Thu/Thu	1806	3.562	2047	2.310	0749	1743	1002	2206
14	Fri/Fri	1919	3.748	2151	—	0749	1743	1057	0112
15	Sat/Sat	0509	1.940	0103	1.221	0750	1743	1141	2220
16	Sun/Sun	0736	1.910	0408	1.012	0750	1743	1221	2336
17	Mon/Mon	0919	2.042	0609	1.432	0751	1743	1256	—
18	Tue/Tue	0959	2.150	0725	1.555	0751	1743	1329	0050
19	Wed/Wed	1044	2.206	0835	1.607	0751	1744	1401	0142
20	Thu/Thu	1132	—	0945	1.552	0751	1744	1434	0245
21	Fri/Fri	1226	1.956	1042	1.393	0751	1744	1508	0404
22	Sat/Sat	0059	1.912	0732	1.942	0751	1744	1549	0514
23	Sun/Sun	0149	1.829	0818	2.030	0751	1745	1639	0613
24	Mon/Mon	0235	1.818	0851	2.115	0751	1745	1736	0700
25	Tue/Tue	0321	1.854	0941	2.159	0752	1745	1845	0821
26	Wed/Wed	0408	1.934	1043	2.139	0752	1746	1915	0919
27	Thu/Thu	0449	1.993	1058	2.019	0752	1746	2016	1040
28	Fri/Fri	0537	1.991	1139	2.029	0752	1746	2116	1045
29	Sat/Sat	0559	1.851	1205	—	0752	1747	2217	1116
30	Sun/Sun	0639	1.914	1240	1.940	0752	1747	0012	1149

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 12a

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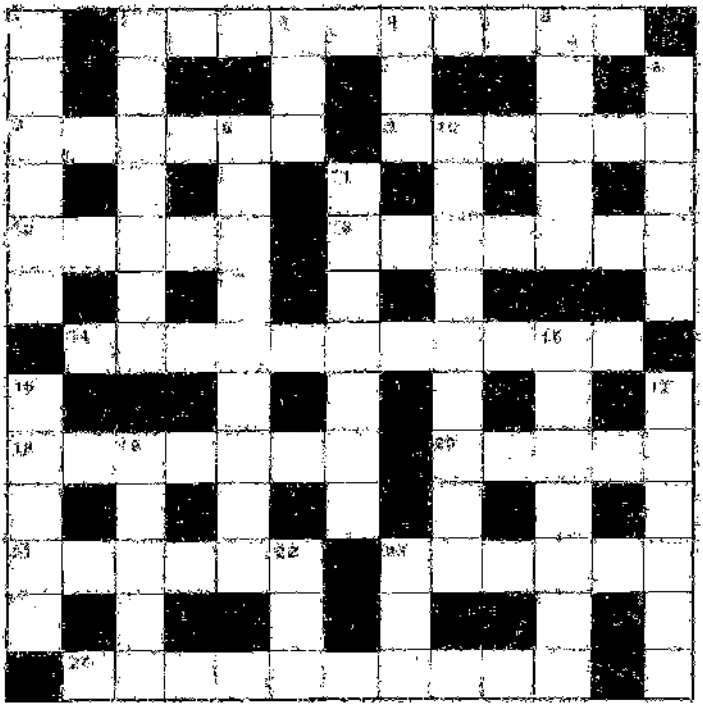
CROSSWORD PUZZLE 14



CLUES - ACROSS

2 This local glen apparently accomplished nothing (4,6)
7 Ran south, east and west in a tunnel but found the solution (6)
9 Clever to be right in the bay (6)
12 Was a fantastic. Promote him sighted (5)
13 Noise but adjusted for tests by the sound of it (7)
14 Self even, use organised road to Soulders (7,4)
18 Doing the roaring towards nightfall (7)
20 A group of musicians making safety equipment (6)
21 It comes to all, to crabbed and cant lies without youth (6,3)
23 A mild expression of disapproval in rough adds. Cheer! (6)
24 One being trained pulling a pound inside the way above the Coastal Park (6,4)

CLUES - DOWN

1 Walker upset, names the steps up to Just Kurtaneous grave (5)
2 Lack of Beath - dear comfort? (7)
3 A mistake of propulsion in bankfulling? (3)
4 Turnwish without a heart gives us a surplus (3)
5 High flier under par - by two! (5)
6 Reasons - of a bodice? (5)
8 Visiting without trying (5)
10 Comes down, stay shake, for a nearby farm (3)
11 Forelet before the wise man (7)
15 A veritable paragon. Not that sort (7)
16,17 A way for Drake to feel at home in Mount Pleasant (6,6)
19 Bust down (5)
22 Shelter for a backward fish (3)
23 A robust ambient mountain (3)

PRIZE: £100 [illegible] valid in Cafe Pescado

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

• Entries in plain envelope addressed to Shoestown Calling Crossword Puzzle and delivered to Simon's Town Bottle Store before Friday 21 June • First correct entry drawn will be the prize winner • Only one entry per person permitted • Result and solution in the following issue of Shoestown Calling.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS JUNE 2002

Pensioners' Free 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 Thursday 6 June. For times and pick up points please phone 021 786 3137.

Simon's Town Museum
Wednesday 19 June "St Helena - 500 Years of History" Dr Syd Cullis will present a talk with slides on the history of this interesting South Atlantic Island. Donation R10 (Wine & fruit juice served).

Friends of Simon's Town Coastline
Saturday 9 June at 9:30am: Alien Vegetation Hack and Planting of Indigenous Shrubs. Meet at Frank's Bay, Simon's Town (the parking area at Fisherman's Beach is a convenient parking place).

Tuesday 25 June at 7 for 7:30pm: Illustrated talk: "Five million years of Human and Environmental change in The Western Cape" by Dr Graham Avery, Researcher in Cenozoic (less than 70 million years ago). Studies at the Iziko Museums, Cape Town.
Venue: Museum Hall, Court Road, Simon's Town. Enquiries 786-1072. This talk is not to be missed.

NB For walks and hacks during June, contact Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group on 786-1620 or 789-1334.

Lady Hamilton's Restaurant
Saturday 22 June 7:30 for 8pm Medieval Banquet. Fundraiser for ST Community School. Tickets R60 per person (buffet incl) available from Wendy at Beau Geste Hairdressers, Cutty Sark Lane off St George's St. Phone 786-1219. Good food, dancing, prizes.

Fundraising Golf Day
NSRI Station 10 Simon's Town at Simon's Town Country Club. Monday 17 June (1st tee off at 7:30pm) R70 per player. R250 per 4 Ball. Enquiries 786-1714, bookings 786-1233. (Great prizes, Halfway House incl).

Bible Study Series
TV Ministry "It is Written", "New Beginnings". Willets Building, 106B St George's St, Simon's Town on Tuesday 11 June at 7pm "How to know the future". Tuesday 18 June at 7pm "Signs you can't ignore". Tuesday 25 June at 7pm "The Great Escape" Entrance free. For more info call Ron 082 442 4820.

Body Stress Release
Wednesday 26 June, Simon's Town Museum, 6 for 6:30pm. Join us for a complimentary glass of wine and informative talk on Body Stress Release and the effects of Stress in our lives today. Speaker: Charlotte Richardson, Body Stress Release Practitioner. For more info or to book call 786-2996.

MISSING!

Believed taken for possible gain!
"JACKIE"
A thoroughbred Jack Russel bitch. Does not stray but is very friendly and will jump into cars. Had on a leather collar, licence disc and brass disc engraved with phone number "786-3451".
If found pelase contact **786-1714!!** We are her caretakers at present and we are frantic with worry!

Deadline for June edition
Friday 21 June 2002
Next Publication Monday 1 July

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.