SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 5 Issue 7 3 February 2002

Commodore Paul Dryden Dymond

February Sponsor - Iona Loxton

Commodore Paul Dryden Dymond

Excerpts from a biography researched and written by Vice Adm. Sir Alan Gore KBE, Royal Navy, for the ***Journal of the Naval Heritage Society of SA*** *and printed by Naval Digest, November 2002. Our grateful thanks for permission to publish these excerpts.*

Part 1

Richard Paul Dryden Dymond (called in the Biography RPDD) was born at Mossel Bay on July 26, 1912. When he was nine years old his father died and the mother was left to rear 3 children in difficult circumstances. The family settled in Cape Town in the mid-twenties; here RPDD attended a number of schools, including the Diocesan College (Bishops) preparatory school and senior schools in Rondebosch.

In 1928 RPDD was awarded a bursary by the Cape Town Municipality to join the South African Training Ship *General Botha*. After leaving the *General Botha* in 1929 he became a businessman in Cape Town, but early in 1932 joined the South African Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) as a Midshipman. Promoted to Sub-Lieutenant in 1934, RPDD underwent training in HMS *Milford* the following year, when the ship returned to the UK to pay off.

When the last of the South African Naval Service ships (HMSASs *Imortelle* and *Sonneblom*) were withdrawn from service in 1934, South Africa did not possess a single ship capable of defending its long coastline or protecting its trade on the high seas when war broke out on September 3, 1939. Although the Union Government did not immediately mobilise its forces, it agreed to members of the RNVR (SA) volunteering for local defence and in limited numbers outside the Union. A signal from the Admiralty to the Cape Town division of the RNVR (SA) read: "Commence hostilities at once with Germany". Lieutenant Dryden Dymond, now aged 27, was appointed in command of HMS *Swartberg*, one of the first of the local whalers to be requisitioned for Royal Naval service and fitted out for duty as a port minesweeper at Simon's Town, along with HMS *Oostewal*. On October 2, 1939 RPDD married his fiancée, Miss Kathleen Powrie, in Cape Town.

When the SA Seaward Defence Force (SDF) was formed on January 15, 1940, it took over from the Royal Navy responsibility for the 17 South African-requisitioned trawlers and whalers, which were converted to 15 minesweepers and 2 examination vessels. Of the 15 minesweepers, 7 were stationed at Cape Town and two each at the other 3 key ports. The remaining two were employed at Simon's Town under the operational control of the Royal Navy, HMSAS *Swartberg*, with RPDD in command, being one of these.

When Italy entered the war in June 1940, concern was felt at the Cape about 6 large Italian submarines based at Massava in Italian Eritrea, which were capable of operating south of Durban. The first two South Africa ships to be fitted out as submarine hunters, with 1st generation anti-sub detection equipment (Asdic) were the port minesweepers HMSAS *Mooivlei*, with RPDD in command, and HMSAS *Blomvlei*. They were sent to Durban to carry out anti-sub duties, but soon afterward RPDD transferred back to Cape Town to command the converted whaler HMSAS *Rondvlei* which, with HMSAS *Smalvlei*, were the next anti-sub vessels to enter service and take over the task of anti-sub patrols off Cape Town.

Continued on page 4

Editorial

First an important event: our Section 21 Company is in the hands of the authorities for registration - goodness me, nearly 18 months after I tabled the proposal with the committee of the Civic Association. No matter; in the centre fold is a brief write-up of the Simon's Town Amenities Development Company, plus a shareholder's application form. Effectively, this Company becomes our own municipal council in exile, to perform those important community functions when we used to receive from the former council but now no longer attended to by the Unicity.

I strongly encourage all those who qualify to become shareholders - the cost is insignificant; maximum support is imperative for success.

Now a potentially serious matter which could have had serious consequences for our foreign property owners. Read carefully: in mid-December a letter in the Cape Times, written by a UK resident who owned residential property in Constantia Hills and lived there for 6 months of the year.
His complaint was that the new draft visa legislation would require him to provide certified evidence that he received an income of R20 000 per month, in order to obtain a visa for a 6 months stay in South Africa; the conditions also applied to his wife.

In the Cape Times of January 7, a Mr James Harrington gave support to the above complaint, providing further details in his letter, regarding this serious predicament for foreign property owners. Now the moment of truth: in a letter to the Cape Times of January 21, our Minister of Home Affairs, Mongosuthu Buthalezi criticises the two writers, strongly suggesting that they had got the story completely wrong, and there was need for more and better homework!

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So, not to panic, but what intrigues me is how and why the Cape Town could publish such letters without comment or explanation. For a month or so there was a state of near panic among real estate agents.

Now, regarding calmer events: what a party that was - the New Year's Eve bash on Jubilee Square: well done, the Committee! It gets better every year. I am told there were over 5000 visitors and some R200 000 was collected.

Finally, the fire season is upon us and the red alert is on - yet I observe properties with dense cover of aliens which are waiting for a major conflagration. Property owners have responsibility and liability in terms of the provisions of two acts, namely: 1) in terms of the Veld and Forest Fires Act and the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, property owners who fail to clear vegetation could be held liable for the huge costs incurred during firefighting, and could also face civil claims for fellow property owners arising out of damages incurred; 2) The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act mentions 198 species of alien vegetation prohibited by law from being grown in South Africa.

So, in your own interests get that plot cleared!

Be careful out there.
Reg Loxton, Editor
2 Chapel Road, Simon's Town
Tel/Fax: 021 786 1750

Snoektown Calling Back Numbers

Back numbers are obtainable from Peter or Mike at R3 per copy, call 786-1981. Sale proceeds go to a worthy welfare cause.

Down the Historical Mile

Well now, the first meeting of SLAP in the New Year of 2003 - welcome! said the chairman. At the end of last year I appointed a small committee to investigate and report on the verbal battle between George W Bush, the President of the USA, and Saddam Hussein, leader of Iraq. War is threatened, and us ordinary folk are confused: we need to know what's going on. Well, Stoffel Boesman is chairman of this committee, so let's hear what he has to say.

Yes, Mrs Chairman, this is a serious matter - Stoffel was wearing his stern face which he thought appropriate for the occasion. Our conclusions are:

1. The motive could be political - Bush is campaigning for his re-election in less than two year's time, so he sees the need to canvas votes in the influential lobby groups, like the Jewish lobby. So Bush bashes a Moslem country like Iraq and pussy-foots around the Palestine crisis. That's one possibility Mr Chairman, but we conclude that this is not the real issue.

2. The issue is economic: Bush declares he must disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and liberate the people of Iraq from the evil persecution by that monster Saddam Hussein. That's the story, but the real plan is to gain control of Iraq's oil - the reserves are substantial - and in due course break OPEC. Is not the USA the most powerful country in the world? So it is totally unacceptable that the USA should be dictated to

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by a bunch of Arabs as regards the oil price. So that's our colonialism, Mr Chairman, the objective is economic and the analogy is not new. Hitler used it also, as did a guy named Alfred Jarry when warning the gold producers in the old Transvaal Republic.

Ja, Mr Chairman, now we have the truth - but for heaven's sake, can't we get rid of these words "Westbank" in our constitution? I hear it a hundred times a day and it's driving me mad! We must ask auld Constance Mienies (Grim Wynberg) you know to write to our President requesting that those words be officially banned. Maybe they could Weep instead, and we will know what they mean. Ja wel, no fire, said the chairman we have a lot to think about and that ended the SAAP meeting for January.

But Harold Hardship wanted the last word: so Bush is no Bush - he's just a skelm. Bossie, even a Khaki Bossie. But Buer is definitely not a Pyrrhus.

Streetwalker

Commodore Paul Dryden Dymond cont'd...

Later that year the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, requested the loan of 4 anti-submarine vessels for temporary service in the West. The 4 Hunt-class sloops were hurriedly commissioned to act as sub-vessels - HMSAS *Southern Maid*, *Southern Floe*, *Southern Isles* and *Southern Sea*. The incredible achievements and reputation of these "little ships" while engaged in the so-called "Battle of the Atlantic" are legendary. They escorted ships and fought a gallant battle in support of the beleaguered garrison on the Libyan coast, while under massive air and submarine attack, and also faced a formidable mining threat.

Within a month of their arrival HMSAS *Southern Floe* sank, after hitting a mine off Tobruk, with the loss of all her ship's company but one, SDF stoker Cy Jones, on loan from HMS Gloucester. HMSAS was chosen to command Southern Floe's replacement, HMSAS

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Protea, a converted "Terje" class whaler, when the Admiralty requested an extension to the loan of the South Africa "little ships" to the hard pressed Med Fleet. After a speedy conversion in Cape Town, Protea commissioned on June 27, 1941 and left for the Mediterranean shortly afterward to join the 22nd Anti-Sub Group.

Like the other South African "little ships" in the Med, Protea was, for the next few months, involved in a variety of tasks in the waters off the coasts of Syria, Turkey and Cyprus, as well as off North Africa. During this time they were exposed to intensive aerial bombing, surface and submarine attack and a multi-faceted mine threat. In April 1942 RPDD was relieved in Protea by Lt Gordon Barn-Wood. However, his return to South Africa was delayed by the need to take temporary command of the *Southern Isles* while her Commanding Officer was hospitalised.

Part 2 in the March Issue of Snoektown calling.

Snoektown Calling Supporter's Club

1. Individual:	
Robert Langton (UK)	R300
M Collet	R100
2. Associations:	
Friends of the Coastline	R250
Friends of the Library	R150
Simon's Town Seniors Computer Club	R500
Corporate:	Nil

Baboon Matters

In reply to your editorial in Snoektown Calling December 2002 Volume 5 No.6. Your solution to the baboon "problem" is magnificent - introduce leopards to the mountains again.

When they have eaten the baboons - or they might start on the household pets - they can eat the penguins, after which the tourists. Then we'll have Simon's Town to ourselves once more. But what will the leopards eat then, poor things? Will they eat us or will we have to cull them (a very polite word for unjustified slaughter).

However, baboons do have their uses to humans, Mr Editor, (apparently the only justification for allowing them to remain roaming where they have been for the last million years). They are providing fixed employment for a growing number of people from Masiphumele in the form of monitors.

On 20th December 2002 Mr Johan Gelderbloem, Minister for Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, presented a cheque of R100 000 to the organisers of Baboon Matters for the ongoing employment of monitors. This was made possible by the generosity of Mr Marius Fransman, Minister of Social Services and Poverty Alleviation.

Baboon Matters has done sterling work to

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sensitise people to the plight of our unique co-inhabitants and are hoping to add controlled tourism to the list of co-operative ventures.

In the words of Minister Gelderbloem, "Good luck to Baboon Matters, who have been approved by the conservation authorities to manage the project and provide the training, strength to the monitors, and happy hunting to small groups of tourists adventurous enough to tackle the baboon trek. May we (humans) have the good fortune and display the good sense to have chacma baboons around in another million years' time"

Juliet Bass
Dunearn, Boulders, Simon's Town

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Ward Councillor's Report

JANUARY 2003

May 2003 be a year of success and achievement. Many matters affecting Simon's Town are still outstanding and it is to be hoped some can be resolved this year.

1. DIDO VALLEY LAND ACQUISITION: We are still waiting for the State Attorney to finalise the paperwork. Calls to Public works department about this and other properties revealed that PWD is also going through restructuring - again. This has involved all personnel from Cape Town having to go to Pretoria, staying in hotels while they write out their job descriptions so that they can then apply for their jobs. All this at the taxpayers' expense. This is why we do not have delivery but an ever-increasing bureaucracy that spends time, energy and money on chewing its own tail. Sadly, local government does the same.

2. WHARF STREET: The erf adjoining the

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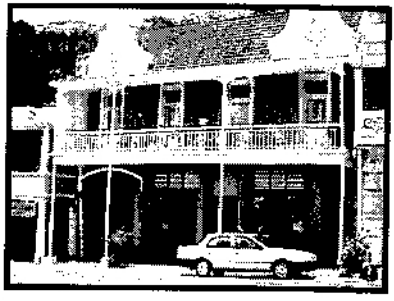

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jetty has been in the hands of the municipality (originally the Simon's Town Municipality) for about a century. There is a title deed restriction requiring that no commercial development be allowed and that access to the jetty be assured. The former South Peninsula Municipality was challenged by the developers of Quayside on the basis that it was in breach of this restriction. PWD have set a very high value on removing the restriction and have rejected the offer of R350 000 from the municipality. Stalemate.

3. FIRE PREVENTION: I met recently with representatives of Ukuvuka to be briefed on the plan and programmes for the year ahead. Considerable clearing is to be undertaken in Simon's Town either by SA National Parks or teams trained by Ukuvuka and commissioned by it to do the work. I have asked for a map of the area south of Silvermine with all the relevant details which I will put up in the Library for information of the public. Areas to be cleared include above Simon's Kloof where all the big gums will be felled, around Da Gama Park where the Navy will do the work and between the Naval Wardroom and the Simon's Town School. The regrowth at Dido Valley is also to receive attention.
Private landowners can in future expect to be billed for fires that start on their properties.

4. THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS: The clinic currently operates once a week, from cramped premises under the Town Hall. I have asked the Clinic Managers to assess whether it could not be relocated to one of the buildings near the Library. This would mean that all the municipal services would be in one complex for easy access. Together with the concept of space available for community use and activities we could have quite an exciting facility.

The plan would be to have a calendar of activities and functions for the year involv-

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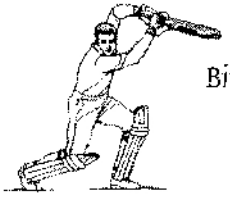

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ing the old municipal offices, the Library Hall (formerly the library) and the old engineering/law enforcement offices.
The Anchor Players have a small office above the Library and there is discussion about having a Trauma Room established to assist victims of crime. Please contact me or the Librarian with your ideas.

5. MUNICIPAL PERSONNEL: General Ndongeni died recently. He was a cleaner in Simon's Town for many years and a very familiar face to the residents. He retired in 2000 after 48 years with the municipality but continued to live at Blue Waters. So many of our longstanding residents pass on and with them go so many memories. General was such a part of daily life in Simon's Town he will be missed.

Another of our municipal personnel died in January: Rod Knapp who drove the library building project will be remembered with gratitude for the excellent work he did.

6. THE HOLIDAY SEASON: A meeting was held on 21 January where the Law Enforcement Department presented the report on the holiday season. This passed with no major incidents but there are still many problems on the beaches. Cooking and drinking alcohol is not allowed.
Major concerns are the quantities of broken glass and the constant fouling of public areas by dog faeces. Responsible owners clean up.

7. SUB COUNCIL ACTIVITIES: There will be a tour of the sub council area to acquaint the councillors of the various concerns of the communities for which they are now responsible. The new system created by the ANC/NNP alliance has meant that councillors are appointed to sub councils outside of the areas they know. I shall be very interested to see which councillors attend the tour. I am also extremely concerned about decisions that will be made on planning matters. For some reason the area south of

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the Silvermine range is seen as a bastion of white privilege and wealth. This of course ignores reality.
Perhaps we should secede from the City. It might be a while before it is even noticed.

8. WASTE MANAGEMENT: I shall be requesting a list of all businesses with Trade Refuse Agreements with the municipality and with the private contractor. Certain businesses continue to dump their refuse in the public bins because they do not want to pay. There has been an increase in cockroaches and rats and refuse is not being stored in appropriate containers.

There is a new Waste Management directorate now and new systems and practices and I look forward to seeing the improvement which I am assured will follow.

Nicki Holderness
Ward 89 City of Cape Town

Simon's Town Civic Association

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

This is the last newsletter for 2002 and I want to thank Ian Allen and Eve Leggett for having produced the November newsletter while I was away (doing an impersonation of a geriatric au pair to grandchildren of 18 months and 5 weeks).

The final meeting of the year was attended by most of the members of the executive. Notable absentees were the Navy, Parks Board and Red Hill.
It was good to have both Councillor Nicki Holderness and Eve Leggett back in harness after their accidents.
Nicki prefaced her report by saying that not much had happened but the administrative problems that she outlined are enough to keep her and all of us concerned about the future of the South Peninsula. For example,

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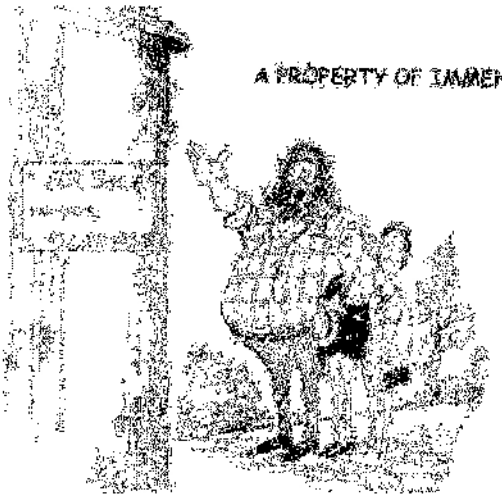

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only five traffic officers per shift have been allocated to our area, which includes Ottery, Muizenberg and Fish Hoek/Kalk Bay, regrettably the Newlands area has 30 per shift.

In relation to safety and security there are two to eight unlit bus stops that should be kept clearly, namely 6pm to 6am for the City Police office hours and 7pm to 2am for Traffic problems during office hours. There would be a new push on standby at Muizenberg during the holiday season and the City will be providing two helicopters for fire fighting duties during this period.

Water supplies in Simon's Town are at some risk while there have been problems with a local reservoir. We have to pump water in from the Cape Town system and that in turn means that we are dependent on the uninterrupted supply of electricity to the whole of town as a "double whammy".

More encouraging was the report on the crime statistics for our area. The probable

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of crime in Simon's Town is significantly lower than before. Let us all be grateful for that.

There was little to report on the property front. The highlight was probably that there would be a new cell phone mast on the Hugo Boshoff Building.

A potential, partially the removal of the Imbizo advertising Shabbat problem, could have been offset by the appearance of a similar sign advertising the petitioners. As with so many of the problems referred to the STOA it is a case of "Once more into the breach dear friends!"

Some attention has been given to clearing of weeds and aliens along the streets and storm water drains have been unblocked. The control of motorists speed along the main road past Froggy Farm is causing concern and the parking of tourist coaches on the "Lamppost" above Waters Edge Beach is causing irritation and could be dangerous

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as the tourists cross the road in droves. If it is not penguins at risk it is tourists - neither are familiar with our driving habits.

Those monitoring the health of Glencairn Vlei have discovered a limited source of additional money for the maintenance of wetlands and that could be good news. There will be a repeat of last year's wetlands celebration early in February and some thought is being given to the establishment of a newsletter about the Vlei.

Those penguins that escape the hazards of the main road are still causing quite vehement discussion about the possibility of preventing them from nesting in the bushes above Boulders Beach (or what is left of the bushes). The compromise that was reached was that during the festive season Willis' Walk would be open to the public, the gates giving access to the beach would be closed except for the two giving access to the boardwalk at the Seaforth end and to Boulders Beach at the other end. The no-go area for nesting penguins will be considered again in the new year.

An urgent appeal is made to all who walk their dogs to please clean up after them - the mess that dogs leave affects not only tourists but residents as well.

The ongoing saga of the Simon's Town Company - to be known as "The Simon's Town Amenities Development Company (STADCO)" - rumbles on. I believe that all problems were overcome and that the company would be registered with a representative assortment of Directors.

Fees for membership of the STCA (R50 p.a.) for 2003 became due on 1st January and we would like to bring our records up to date. The STCA paid approximately R5000 towards the setting up of the Company (STADCO) as we are convinced that it would be money well spent and that it would be of considerable benefit to the community in years to come. Since this money came from

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the subscriptions paid by current members of the STCA, it was agreed that all currently (2002) paid-up members of the STCA would automatically become members of STADCO entitling each to one vote at Company General Meetings. Those who join for the first time in 2003 will be required to pay R25 for membership of STADCO.

The Companies' Act stipulates that each member must sign an acceptance form; hence the attached form. Please complete it and return it promptly.
Should anyone require reassurance about the implications of such membership, let it be said that should the Company fail, for whatever reason, each member will only be liable for a maximum of R10.

The news from the Publicity Association continues to be positive and exciting. The function held on the Outeniqua was sold out and a great time was had by all.

A video on Simon's Town has been prepared and is to be put onto a CD for distribution. The website is achieving 70000 'hits' per month and represents 60 paying advertisers. The Association made R10000 out of the commission on its various activities.

A multi-page brochure on Simon's Town has been completed and is in print. In all 90 advertisers have bought space in it and the Parks Board has contributed R7000 towards the costs of the brochure.

Our fame is backfiring on us in the sense that film companies are tying up facilities and streets without prior warning. This is another item that needs our attention.

The other good news is that the New Year's Eve Party appears to have gone well. I hear that the gross takings for the evening amounted to R200 000. That represents a considerable fillip to the charities that benefit from this Party.

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The next meeting of the STCA committee will be on 10th February.

John Morris

City of Cape Town

Integrated Development Plan (IDP) It is vital that communities take part in deciding how the City plans and delivers services and what we should focus on as a City. The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) is the ideal planning tool to do this. Public Participation workshops will commence in February 2003, so that communities will have the opportunity to participate in the IDP process. These workshops will also cover our Performance Management System that gives you a chance to tell us how we are doing!

OTHER ISSUES TO WATCH OUT FOR: It will also be necessary for communities to participate around issues like the Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy (see attached brochure), Tourism, Traffic Calming, CIDS (Central Improvement Districts) and the City's Filming Policy. We will keep you informed during the year. Keep an eye on the local press for details.

DATABASE: The database is the main tool that we use to keep in contact with you so it is very important that the information we have is accurate. Please make sure that you keep us informed of any change in your contact details or the creation of new organisations within the City of Cape Town, so that we may update the database accordingly.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT: The Transformation Directorate is also responsible for helping our business units to deliver to you, our customers, as effectively as possible. We now have a group of well-trained staff who are able to intervene in situations of poor service delivery, If you are aware of areas of our service that really need to be helped to improve their service to you, please tell us about them so that our intervention team can

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swing into action next year.
For further inquiries please contact:
Ms Margret Isaacs Tel: 400-1273, fax: 400-1283, Margret.Isaacs@capetown.gov.za
Mr Frederick Venter Tel: 400-1262, Fax: 400-1283, Freddie.Venter@capetown.co.za
May we all contribute towards the success of our City.

Jane Hudson - Director: Transformation

From Dr. Steven van der Merwe's surgery

Dear patients

Last year this time, I was "enjoying" the lovely English weather, and can you believe it – here we are again. Thank you for all the wonderful Christmas wishes; cards and presents during the 2002 festive season. It is really a great privilege to be a GP in this village and to share in so much kindness.

As far as 2003 goes, I thought I would bring you up to date with the goings on at 198 Queen's Road. Due to increased demand, we have decided to start at 8.00 am in the mornings. We will still close at 1.00 pm on a Thursday, but will be open on Saturday mornings (from 9.00 am to 12.00) except for the odd weekend that my family and I tear ourselves away from Simon's Town.

My after-hours work will remain the same. On the odd occasion that I do take off in the week, the practice will be covered by competent local GPs. Please call the emergency number of the practice (082-5739597) and you will either speak to me directly or will be informed who the doctor on call is.

I encourage patients to join Cape Medical Response. The doctors (in the valley) that respond to emergencies are very competent to deal with them, but we all require extra hands and specialized equipment in severe emergencies. For a mere R 43.90 a month, your whole household is covered in

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an emergency. There are no further charges for materials etc. So, if ever there is a doubt or a moment of panic, you may call CMR (082 762 4444) they will come to your aid anyway. Whether you have a medical aid or not, it does not matter. CMR responds to the main emergency and stabilises the patient. Depending on the patient's circumstances a private ambulance service or the state sector can be mobilised speedily to enable transport to an appropriate hospital (according to what the patient can afford). Cape Medical Response's dedication to the area and knowledge of the Deep South surrounds, make them the quickest response service that I know of.

Thank you for the privilege of entrusting me with your health needs and making my family and I part of the community. Have a Happy 2008!

Steven van der Merwe
Don't forget our e-mail address for an on-line chat: docvan@absamail.co.za

Feral (Wild) Cats

Simon's Town is getting more and more feral cats. These cats are the offspring of abandoned cats and domestic cats which have not been sterilised / neutered. They are starving and in order to survive not only kill mice and rats, but also our beautiful birds.
So please, if you own a cat have it sterilised/ neutered. If your cat does have kittens ensure they go to responsible owners who will have the kitten sterilised at 6 months of age. Have the mother cat sterilised, once the kittens have been weaned at 6 weeks.
If you do have a wild cat in your area be proactive - borrow a trap from the SPCA or TEARS, catch the cat and sterilise it, before setting it free again into the area it was caught. Both TEARS (The Emma Animal Rescue Society) at 780-4482 and the SPCA at Grassy Park will sterilise cats very cheaply, many vets will also "work" a plan if you really cannot afford the normal fee. Please be a responsible cat owner.

Ann Liggett

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Pro Musica Divina in 2003

This year promises to be "busy musical bee" 2003. We kick off with a concert on 16 March at the Simon's Town Methodist Church. Those who enjoyed the Palm Strings Quartet just before Christmas last year, can testify to the lovely evening we had there. The March Concert will "feature" 6 cello's playing together. For those who have not heard this – you have not lived yet. This cello sextet consists of six of Cape Town's best cellist and they astound audiences with their musicality. Watch the Snoek Town Calling and posters for details. In April Steven van der Merwe will be conducting a performance of the Stabat Mater by Giovanni Pergolesi (1710-1736). This beautiful music composed for chamber orchestra; soprano and alto will be performed by candlelight and due to the context of the music it will be performed close to Easter. Audiences will hear the voices of Marriane Serfontein (soprano) and Brenda Feldtsman (alto) and promises to be a magic evening. During May the Dutch Reformed Church in Simon's Town is arranging a charity concert and have requested Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina's participation. Further details will be given later. Hopefully the long awaited Mass for choir and orchestra will be ready for performance in August. Dr. Barry Smith and the St. Georges Singers have undertaken to perform the premiere. Let us support and keep music alive in the Deep South.

Music at St Francis

The first of a series of monthly organ recitals will take place at St Francis Church, Court Road on Friday 7th March from 13:10 to 13:50. Alan Clapp, Cape Town City Hall recitalist will perform works by Handel, Bach, Boellman and Warlock. Our organ is an historic instrument having remained in "as built" condition since its construction by Hills of London in 1889, and as such is one of a rapidly dwindling number of organs in South Africa. Durbanville Pipe Organ Builders has no hesitation in putting forward a claim for it to be declared an historic national monument. Do come and enjoy the beauty of the church and the organ. A silver collection will be taken.

Simon's Town Community Police Forum

LOOKING BACKWARDS & FORWARDS!!!
Looking back over the last 6 months in 2002 it is good to say that great progress has been made with the positive building of good relationships between the general public and the South African Police Service.Through the medium of Snoektown Calling we have featured many of our S.A.P. staff and this will continue during this year until we have introduced you to each and every one of them.
The meetings held every fortnight - also designed to introduce you to the Police Service Personnel, to find out what was happening in your area and for you to have the opportunity to ask questions - went well in the

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Simon's Town area but poor attendance in the Glencairn and Glencairn Heights districts was experienced. Nevertheless, the whole exercise was well worth the effort and a HUGE 'THANK YOU" must be given to all those ladies who so willingly provided plates of snacks for each meeting and to Lenore who energetically marched up and down hand delivering invitations in the Murdock Valley and Froggy Farm areas.

NEXT EVENTS: We will continue with our public awareness campaign throughout this year, concentrating on the children in Simon's Town. Our aim is to have fun with the children and young people - as well as for the adults, whilst educating and informing. So watch the press for details of our fun events this year.

WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF..... As Public Relations Officer for the STCPF many minor complaints are received, which we try to deal with as politely and effectively as possible. A call was received from a very distraught and disgusted resident in Simon's Town regarding DOG DROPPINGS! This lady, along with hundreds of tourists to our beautiful beaches, has watched irresponsible dog owners walking their dogs on Longbeach, allowing them to "poo" - sometimes right under the noses of families with children, overseas visitors and other people enjoying the lovely beach and sea, then walking off without a care in the world, leaving behind the mess and goo!

What an advert for dog owners! Come on guys, it's not that bad, keep your old plastic packets in the boot of your car and PICK UP THE POOP!!!!!! If this situation does not improve our dogs could be banned from all beaches, sports fields, etc., thus depriving the dogs and their owners of much pleasure. Imagine sitting having a braai with friends in your beautiful garden and some careless dog owner allowed their dog to poop on your garden right in front of you - and then walk off!

No excuses - if you have a bad back, can't

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bend, there are commercial "pooper scoopers" available at little cost with long handles so you don't have to bend down. Make an effort and keep your beach and public areas clean. Pretty Please!!!!!!

TRAUMA CENTRE: Plans are well under way to open the Trauma centre, which will ensure that victims of rape, domestic violence and child abuse, are interviewed in a warm and homely environment, thereby taking some of the panic and stress out of the situation. We are hoping to have this centre in the old Mayor's Parlour at the now Library building, but have to overcome a few "red tape" issues before we can actually start furnishing and equipping the centre. We will be looking for nice things to put in the room, toys for children, etc. If you can help, please give me a call.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: Come along and have your say, or just listen to the report from the STCPF committee. If you don't participate, you can't complain. **Venue - old municipal offices (above the Library), Monday 24 February at 5pm**

Heather Lunderstedt
Public Relations
Simon's Town Community Police Forum

Across the Hex and into a Brave New World -1

The trek by train to Johannesburg ended at Park Station and found us grimy, speckled with soot and irritable. Dad appeared, sprightly and full of beans; but he had travelled 1st Class, while wife, young daughter and two small sons, with piles of luggage, had been crowded into a stuffy 2nd class compartment. Dad went off to find temporary accommodation, and finally installed us in 2 rooms in the nearby Ritz Hotel which, though posh, was willing to accept children.

Here Mother once again had to avert her

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eyes from the sight of "braked hussies" drinking alcohol and smoking in public. Worse still, she experienced her first earth tremor the next morning and demanded our return to Cape Town. What was safe in the Cape Wall true, she cited civilisation stopped at the Hex River, day and wasmo-mane-land.

However two days later Sad found a friendly family hotel in Commissioner St. The Hotel Florence was an interesting place almost across from the Empire Theatre, the artistes often rushed in for a quick meal between variety turns - often in full makeup and costumes, fascinating to see. Although children had to eat in an annexe, we could stand in the doorway and gawp, and were sometimes rewarded with a dazzling smile and a handwave.

I liked watching the people at the Florence; there was Mrs Rosen, wife of the proprietor and surely the most elegant woman in the world (Mother said she was ostentatious, overdressed and vulgar). Mrs Rosen's black hair was worn like a close-fitting cap, shingled at the back, and she wore extremely long earrings and pearls around her throat. Alan broad slave bangles above the elbows and slinky black dresses sprinkled with sparkling diamants. In the evening Mrs Rosen appeared in a rich brocaded opera cloak which had a large tassel at the back - this

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swung from side to side when she walked. Mrs Rosen had bought his wife a dress shop in Eloff St, here she entertained friends and lavished gifts of bearded evening bags and tiny scent bottles on them. Young Lulu Rosen said they drank lots of cocktails.

Cocktails? Could one actually drink from a glass filled with roosters' feathers? Poor Mrs Rosen, said Mother (ignoring my request for information); she must cost him a fortune. She probably did, what with the cost of all those tall feathers, but I thought Mrs Rosen was magnificent, especially after she gave me one of those exquisitely painted little scent bottles.

In the hotel was a large first floor room, which was used as a playroom for Lulu. There was a huge carved dressing table with many mirrors and pillars, a multitude of small drawers and two roomy cupboards. This structure had been converted into a doll's house and Lulu generously allowed me to share it. A few blocks up from the Florence was the Belfast Warehouse, a barnlike place with long wooden counters and shelves laden with bolts of colourful cloth. The assistants were plump, cheerful women who called customers dearie or lokey. Lulu and I were valued clients there. "There y'are dearie," taking down a bolt of cotton fabric. "A nice sprigged pattern for dolly". 5 inches would be carefully measured on the brass ruler screwed to the counter, and the strip of cloth just as carefully cut.

"There's a thrupenny worth, ducky. But we don't want the dollies to wear the same pattern, do we now?" Down would come a second bolt for inspection, and another lokey's worth of material would be cut under our watchful gaze. We always left in a glow, convinced that our patronage was of great importance to the Belfast Warehouse.

St Luke's Hospice False Bay

Sincere new year wishes to all our wonderful friends in False Bay and special thanks for your loyal support in 2002.

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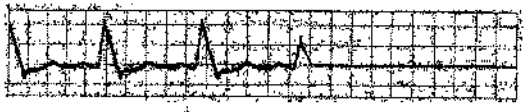

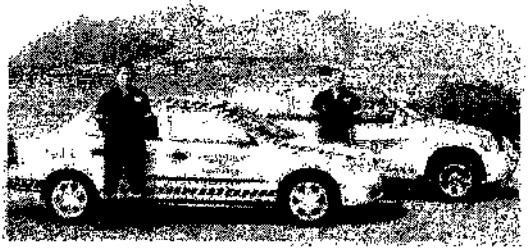

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CAPE MEDICAL RESPONSE

Simon's Town Amenities Development Company (STADCO)

This company, which is about to be registered as a company without a share capital, incorporated under Section 21 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act No 61 of 1973) is a "not for profit" Company and the Directors will work on a voluntary basis. The setting up costs have been met by the Simon's Town Civic Association and the Simon's Town Business Association as it is felt considerable benefit will derive to the overall community in the longer term.

The company belongs to everyone in the area encompassed by the old Simon's Town Municipality – property owners, ratepayers and tenants of such properties. The main business of the company will be to manage and develop community interests and projects in Simon's Town. While, to some extent, this will be aimed at maintaining or replacing services that the Cape Town Unicity no longer provides or supports, new initiatives will be researched and developed.

However, it is important to understand that, in terms of the Companies Act, a register of members ("shareholders") must be kept. Therefore, in order to obtain a vote, all potential members must apply, formally, for membership of the company by completing the application form herewith. **It should be noted that only the Registered Owner(s) of a property or a Tenant with a formal, written and signed lease can become a member, although they may give their written proxy to any one person they wish to vote on their behalf at general meetings of the company.**

The formation and registration of STADCO will not, in itself, impose any additional financial burden on any person in Simon's Town. Membership of the company is strongly recommended but is voluntary – although membership does commit members to a financial obligation of up to R10-00 each in the unlikely event that the company ceases to operate for any reason and has debts.

Founding Directors

In order that the Company can commence operation the following persons put themselves forward on a voluntary basis as Founding Directors. They will remain in that position until the first Public Meeting of Members at which time their positions will be ratified or they may be replaced.

ALLAN, Ian: Spent 33 years with Standard Chartered Bank in Central Africa before retiring to Simon's Town in 1990. Currently, Treasurer of the City Association and Treasurer/Trustee of the Simon's Town Trust.

BUTCHER, Donald: Did National Service in the British Army before embarking on a career in management with various companies in Nigeria and in South Africa. Retired in 1995 and settled in Simon's Town in 1999. Currently President of the Simon's Town Sunrise Computer Club and Vice president of the Simon's Town Probus Club.

DOMMISSE, Boet: Retired in 1996 as Professor and Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCT and GSH. Previously in private specialist practice in Cape Town and Fish Hoek and was chairman and president of several national medical bodies. Particularly interested in history and preservation of buildings and environment and is co-author of the recently published "Simon's Town – an Illustrated Historical Perspective".

FEWELL, Peter: Retired mining engineer. Joined Union Corporation (Gencor) in 1958 and worked on several gold mines on the Witwatersrand, in Cornwall and in Brazil and then on Impala Platinum. Retired in 1995 and came to Simon's Town in 1996. Was chairman of the Publicity Association 1997 to 1999 and is currently President of Simon's Town Probus Club.

INSOS, Patricia (Mrs.): Pharmacist and long time Simon's Town resident. Associated with the Simon's Town Pharmacy since 1971 and the present owner.

JOHNSON, Peter: Spent 30 years in the South African Navy. Chairman of the Simon's Town Business Association and owner of the "At Ease" Bookshop.

PUCHERT, Brian: Spent 26 years with Shell Oil SA. Managing Director, Bolton Industrial Holdings for 11 years and General Manager, Barclay, Southern Africa for 6 years. Was a municipal councillor in the Southern Cape for 8 years. Retired to Simon's Town in 1998.

WEAVER, Jacky (Mrs.): Brought up in Simon's Town, 35 years in Education in addition to other general business experience. Currently Director of the False Bay College.

Simon's Town Amenities Development Company

I, ... (Full Names in Block Letters) being an Owner of selectable property or a Tenant of such property within the boundaries of the former Simon's Town Municipality apply for Membership of the **Simon's Town Amenities Development Company** and agree to be bound to the Memorandum and Articles of Association thereof.

I undertake to contribute to the assets of the Association in the event of its being wound up while I am a member, or within one year thereafter, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before I ceased to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributors amongst themselves for an amount not exceeding R10.00 (Ten Rand).

I enclose the amount of R25-00 (Twenty-five Rand), payable to the Simon's Town Amenities Development Company, as a non-refundable, Life Membership Fee.

Signed .....

Postal Address: .....

.....

Code: .....

Please post to P O Box 47, Simon's Town, 7995.

Simon's Town Civic Association

Membership of the Civic Association is *not compulsory* when becoming a member of the Simon's Town Amenities Development Company. However we would ask you to consider joining an organization, manned by volunteers, which liaises on your behalf with the Municipality and Government Departments on matters of public concern.

Annual Subscription due on 1st January 2003: R50-00. (Fifty Rand)

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Any Special Interests or Areas of Expertise: .....

.....

Would you be prepared to assist the STCA in any way? (Committee Work, Special Projects, Secretary etc). Delete inapplicable. Yes/No.

Please post to P O Box 47, Simon's Town, 7995.

I am delighted that our income increased considerably compared with the previous year thereby allowing us to maintain the medical and nursing care afforded to our growing number of patients.
Our two charity shops in Fish Hoek are in full swing after a Christmas break, so please diarise our opening days.
The Village Shoppe - in Recreation Road adjacent to the Health Clinic and ARP&P offices - Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - 12 noon irrespective of weather.
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Convenor: Container and Village Shops

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- Liquor Licence Applications
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Property Watch Report 45

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. 44.

1.2 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.44.

1.3 Erf No.4495: Cairnside: Application to subdivide into portions. No change from Report No.44.

1.4 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. 44.

1.5 Erf No.2212 Glencairn Heights: Application for Bed and Breakfast establishment. No change from Report No 44.

1.6 Erf No.2464 Forest Hill: Application for subdivision into two parts. No change from Report No.44.

1.7 Erf No.4403 Simon's Town (88 Dorries Drive): Application for departure from single residential to convert existing accommodation into "granny Flat" for self catering letting and to reduce the building line from 4.5 m. to 1.0 m. Now being finalised. No change from Report No 44.

1.8 Erf No.1400 Simon's Town (Klein tuin Road) : Application for temporary land use departure in terms of Section 15 of Ordinance No.15 of 1985 to allow portion of the 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. No change from Report No. 44.

1.9 Erf No.4634 Simon's Town: Application

for Land Use Departure from single residential to allow conversion to Bed & Breakfast. No change from Report No.44. Application in progress.

1.10 .3619 Simon's Town (Glencairn Shopping Centre). Application for amendment of site development plan. To enclose area adjacent to Fish Shop to enlarge existing business area. Objections have been received to the proposal that the area be used as an outdoor restaurant with liquor licence. No change from Report No. 44 but following discussions with the owners the STCA has withdrawn its objections to this proposal.

1.11 Erf No. 1239 (Cnr Forest Hill Road). Application for re-zoning and possible removal of restrictions. No change from Report No. 44.

1.12 Erf No.3636 Simon's Town (Hope Street/Cardiff Road). Application to adjust the boundaries of Erf No.771 (the abutting art to Erf No.3636) and subdivide the adjusted erf into three portions in accordance with the site development plan and to erect three dwellings. Report submitted to Sub-Council. No change from Report No.44.

1.13. Erf No.3042 Simon's Town (Glen Stewart Street, Glencairn Heights). Earlier subdivision which was approved has lapsed and this is a re-application for the proposed subdivision of Erf No. 3042 into two erven in accordance with the lapsed approval. The two erven would be 312sq.m. and 469 sq.m. respectively. Report in progress. No change from Report No. 44.

1.14 Erf No.4004 Simon's Town (Victory Closeway). Application for Land Use Departure from single residential to Bed & Breakfast. Report in progress. No change from Report No. 44.

1.15 Erf No. 2737 Application for departure, rezoning and subdivision. Objections have been lodged. No change from Report 44.

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SIMON'S TOWN

FROM SAT. 22ND FEBRUARY
TO SUNDAY 2ND MARCH

OPEN DAILY 10AM TO 4PM

SIMON'S
TOWN
ART
GROUP

1.16 Erf No.560 (Simon's Town Station) Application for rezoning, departure and subdivision. Further information awaited. No change from Report 44.

1.17 Erf No. 4979 Application for rezoning of public unmade street between Glen St and Erven 250 and 345 from undetermined use zone to residential use. Now being advertised.

1.18 Erf No. 1191 Application for subdivision. Further information required. No change from Report 44.

1.19 Erf No. 2082 Simon's Town(Cnr. Clan Stewart and Brunswick Sts.) Application for sub-division, being advertised at present. No change from Report No. 44.

1.20 Erf No. 3182 Simon's Town (Queens Road, Seaforth) Application for rezoning, closure and alienation of public street - being advertised at present. No change from Report No. 44.

1.21 Erf No. 2298 Simon's Town (Boulders Beach Guest House) Application to rezone from general residential to Business Further information requested from SPA. State of application unclear.

1.22 Erf No. 2737 Simon's Town (Queen's Road, Seaforth) Application for subdivision, rezoning and departures in terms of Sect.15(a)(i) of the LUPO and the Simon's Town zoning scheme. Being advertised at present. Objections have been lodged. No change from Report 44.

1.23 Erf 1368 Simon's Town: (Jan Smuts Ave, Seaforth) Application for height departure. We have no objections to this proposal. No change from Report 44.

1.24 Erf No.4461 Simon's Town (Seaforth Restaurant) Application for temporary Land Use Departure to Operation of Restaurant - enclosure of deck area and upgrading of change rooms. No change from Report 44.

1.25 Erf No.3779 Simon's Town (Hugo

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Biermann Bldg. Naval Base) Application for temporary land use departure: installation of cellular communication antennae at top of lift shaft tower on roof of building with support equipment container to provide coverage in Simon's Town for Cell C network provider. We have no objections to this proposal. No change from Report 44.

1.26 Erven 941 and 3015 (Goede Gift, Simon's Town): Application from the owners of Erf 3477 for the closure and sale of a portion of public street to enable the construction of a vehicular ramp for access to its proposed portions for residential purposes. The STCA has no objection to this proposal.

1.27 Erven 829 and 4393 (Wilfred St, Simon's Town) Application to consolidate these erven and divide into three portions for residential purposes. The STCA has no objection to this proposal.

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.44.

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. 44.

2.3 Consolidated and Amended Town Planning and Zoning Scheme Regulations for Simon's Town and Fish Hoek: No change from Report No. 44.

2.4 Proposed Lease of portions of public street abutting Erven Nos. 1731 and 1734 (Main Road Murdock Valley, Simon's Town) Extent 378 sq.m. each. Proposed usage - Gardening, security and access purposes. Lease period 5 years. No change from Report No. 44.

Eve Leggatt

SOPHEA Gallery & TibetanTeahouse

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Thank you to all who supported us so well over the season as well as bringing friends and family. We appreciate it! Anna will return from a buying trip to Kathmandu mid February with loads of new jewellery, singing bowls and special artefacts and crafts - in the mean time come in and enjoy our great Tibetan food, tea, coffee and cakes.

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The Roaring Forties

As we all know, the world was at war during part of the nineteen forties and guns roared in anger. But for the whole decade, the only roars Simon's Town children heard were firing practices and possibly those of a feline cartoon on screen at the local Criterion "bioscope" – as a cinema was then called. There was also "Snoektown Calling" and the thrilling "Gray Face" serial on radio. It was a happy period for them, if only because they enjoyed simple pleasures and had no doubts on their religious beliefs. Furthermore, they were proud of their school, that through innovative leadership has since survived upheavals and gone from strength to strength.

Very briefly, it all began in 1815 with the establishment of an Anglican Free School and then the Un-denominational Public School in 1865. Due to lack of community support, the latter was replaced in 1896 by the Simon's Town School. It occupied the site of our new library building, which was subsequently sold to house municipal offices and moved to larger premises at Seaforth in 1953.

Although now proudly offering rare "one-stop" schooling from grades one to twelve, levels in the roaring forties were from sub-A to only standard eight. However, Monty Green – the somewhat tyrannical principal – gave senior children a good start before they moved to matriculate elsewhere, with extra classes every Saturday morning.

Many children came from the UK and their fathers worked at the then Royal Navy dockyard. They were accommodated at either Hamoaze Court or Solent Court on Runciman Drive, which have since been renovated and sold under Sectional Title. Nearby, in Forest Hill were the School's netball and tennis courts, where baboons were often enthusiastic spectators. Although there was no swimming pool, the children were content to bathe at Seaforth. They

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Indian head massage (scalp, face, back and shoulders - received in a seated position). Stimulating circulation in the brain - to reduce tension, headaches, eye strain etc.

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021 786 2916 or 083 418 4147

could also buy meat pies and penny slabs of chocolate at Mrs. Nield's waterfront cafe. For the more energetic, there was cricket, rugby or soccer to play on patchy grass where the four buses now park.

If Nicki Holderness – our ward councillor – were somehow transported with her car back in time to the School, she would not have been so happy! Where she parks left of the new Library was a playground, where a stray ball could shatter her windscreen. She could also be pombarded by a carelessly dropped porcelain bowl from the cookery classroom, before it became the traffic office. Although beneath it was the gymnasium for some horseplay, she would risk a tongue lashing from Molly Green – who retired in the later to be Town Engineer's office, for not wearing a navy blue gymslip.

Perhaps Nicki would rather park next to the old library, only to have her car sawn in half by an errant machine – for this was the woodworking classroom. However, if accelerator Clara Fijnbosch and Wingnut Williams of "Bobbejaan Klimpie" infamy had accompanied her, she would no doubt have joined them in a hasty retreat to the since demolished bomb shelter!

Seriously though, there are still many past pupils from the nineteen forties both locally and overseas with fond memories. One is Marion Rouse (nee Roberts) who was secretary for many years of the Ratepayers' Association. Although called a "Dodo" by Molly Green, she is far from extinct and lives at Seaforth. There is also Fritz Weigenmost from Sun Valley, who distinguished himself as an SA Navy marine for 10 years. Both have been most helpful in painting word pictures of the times.

Two other invaluable sources of information were the Simon's Town Museum and Historical Society. In their January and July 2001 Bulletins, the latter quotes fascinating essays on the school and/or the times. Writers were Pamela Shelton (nee Buckham), Pattie Osborn (nee Pope) and Sheila

Rushin (nee Brown). This goes to prove that women have long memories, which explains why smart husbands are careful not to make a memorable scene!

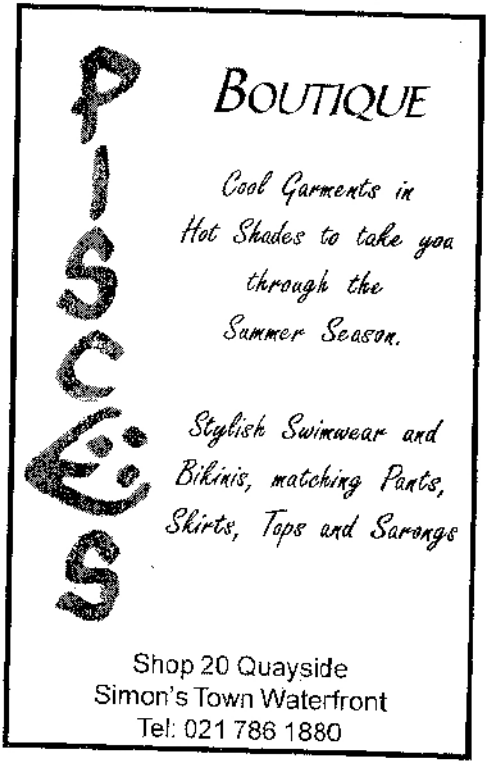
Although a smoker of evil smelling tobacco, "Dagga Pipe" Jannie van Zyl – whose daughter Elaine Dees resides in Fish Hoek – was one of the best remembered teachers. Another was "Jim Crow" van der Poll, who taught Afrikaans to standards six, seven and eight. A keen deep-sea fisherman, he would stand at a window before weekends, to await Imam Baker's docking at the Jetty with a boatload of squid bait. Then Fritz Welgemoed would be excused from class to run like the wind and buy a goodly portion for half a crown.

Fleet-footed Fritz also had the task of shopping for Miss Dreyer – the music teacher, who boarded at the Church Pastorie. Gifted with a fine singing voice, she often bought spirits apparently not for her throat, but to operate an antiquated stove! Then there was Molly May in charge of standard one, and the strict ruler-wielding Miss Higgo who policed standard three. Fortunately, only the boys needed to pad themselves with old newspaper for corporal punishment!

During lunch breaks, the Brits mounted Forest Hill to dine at their parent's Dockyard flat on Runciman Drive. Although most of the children walked everywhere, they at least travelled some distance by train for organized outings to the likes of Kirstenbosch Gardens. Over weekends, they enjoyed the Bridle Path walk to Boulders Beach and mountaineering around the Waterfall. Those with bicycles loved to explore Kommetjie and Muizenberg.
It all seems terribly dull, until we take a closer look at the records. Simon's Bay was a hive of activity - and particularly during the war years. As sailors of the Royal Navy battle groups came ashore to unwind, they were escorted to and from the city's hot-spots by able seaman "Just Nuisance" – the famous seadog since cast in bronze on Jubilee Square. However, those in need to convalesce – rather than pub-crawling along St. George's Street – were taken by aerial ropeway to the Klawer sanitarium.

Boys and girls of Simon's Town School did their bit in attending to the sailors' spiritual needs, by joining the Dockyard Church Choir. They also sang carols on Christmas Eve around the town and at Admiralty House, where Lady Joy Packer – wife of the commander-in-chief South Atlantic – rewarded them with a fine spread. Perhaps they got to meet at least one of the many old boys who served and of those 15 heroes on the School's Roll of Honour.

Although numerous schools in the Cape welcomed expatriates during the roaring forties, what was to become the Simon's Town School gave them something unique. This was a never-to-be-forgotten memory of happy days in a wonderful setting. Where else could a school then be found within walking distance of such spectacular beaches and majestic mountains? Many of



them returned home after the war, but some still retain contact with their old South African school friends. The School's motto *Fac et Spera* – do and hope – or think positively about endeavours is a winning formula for its pupils, teachers and ourselves!

Bevan Pank

Friends of Simon's Town Public Library

With apologies for this late message to the Friends, but with December being a very busy month for everyone, I missed the cut-off date for publication. However, it is not too late to wish all Library Patrons our very best wishes for the year 2003, happy reading and trust you will continue to support your Library which so ably serves you all! At the same time congratulations and grateful thanks are extended to our Library staff for their unending cheerful, friendly and dedicated service to the community (sometimes in the most trying circumstances).

The bad news is that we must take sad leave of Matthew who is leaving for pastures new. We have been fortunate in having had Matthew in the Library on loan for some months and his leaving will be felt by everyone. Melanie says he has been a tower of strength and has passed on much of his expertise, wonderful ideas and new innovations to the Library. For instance, he has built up the Science & Fantasy Section which is much appreciated by users of this facility. Further, and of great importance, is his spearheading of a "Proudly South African" campaign which places in the limelight our local authors and musicians and has enthused other south Peninsula libraries in this project. Thank you and congratulations Matthew and Happy Landings!

In spite of being shortstaffed and being extremely busy with the day to day running of the Library, the Librarian and staff undertook extremely successful holiday programmes for the children, and these will now be carded out during all future school holidays. Apparently these were much enjoyed and popular with the children.

Patrons will, no doubt, have noticed the supply of new books on the shelves. These were purchased by the "Friends' who have allocated to the Library the sum of R3000 per quarter for such purchases which will also include videos, C.D.s, audios etc. The assistance given the Library does not, of course, end there. Various other items are supplied for the benefit of ALL Patrons in the South. This should answer the question - "what do I get from being a member of the Friends?" Membership fees do go some way in assisting our finances and of course, the more members we have, the more Patrons benefit from our endeavours. So, once again, we appeal to you to become paid-up members of the Friends of the Library which gives you such valuable service.

As far as donations are concerned, we are deeply grateful to the Cross Moline Educational, Cultural & Musical Trust for their wonderfully generous donation to the Friends, which will be of enormous assistance in our activities for the Library. Also, various Supermarkets, Liquor Outlets, Garden Nurseries and our own Chemist generously gave of cash and/or kind to our appeals for assistance with our 2003 Fund Raiser, making it a most successful venture. Without such help from Commerce, it would be difficult to carry on and we express our heartfelt thanks,

You might not be aware that our BOOK SALES bring in the much greater part of money from fund raising. Presently there appears to be a "drying up" of donations which is understandable of course, but we would once again like to bring to your notice the dire need of the Friends for donations of books from the public. Please do call Bobby on 786-3890 should you have anything at all available, and I will collect them from you, saving you the journey to the Library.

This year at our "Sales" we propose having

a Gardening/Plant Section where we hope to sell plants, seedlings, flowers, veggies and herbs and maybe some pot plants. Our table at the 2003 fund raising sale proved very successful; and we will try and push our luck as it were! Should you happen to have any unwanted plants, self-sown seedlings, cuttings for striking and so forth which are unwanted, please give us a call on 786-3890 and I will come and collect same. Thanks in advance for any such donations. Should the response to this appeal be successful, it is envisaged that a sale of plants might be held on the Library verandah on Saturday mornings - always provided we have enough supplies - of course! Speaking of Fund Raisers, should you have any ideas at all of ways and means of raising funds, won't you please pass them on to the Library staff who will in turn pass them on to the Friends. We really do need input from Patrons!! Watch this space next month for new book, video etc. titles.

Good Reading!! Bobby van Vuuren

Underwater Gardens

Among those marine invertebrates with great teeth mentioned in the December edition were limpets. Two of the most common on rocky shores around Simon's Town are the 70 mm pear-shaped *Patella cochlear* and long-spined *P. longicosta*. Like all other species, they have great powers of adhesion. Not so well known is their expertise in cultivating, fertilizing and weeding underwater "gardens".

Limpets have not only evolved over 500 million years to camouflage and streamline their shape, but also withstand heat gain or loss on exposure to air. At low tide, they occupy a "home scar" where their shell's contours exactly fit the uneven rock surface. By secreting mucus, they would require a force of over 100 kg to dislodge. This is like trying to separate two glass sheets with a film of water between them. But when on the move, *P. cochlear* and *P. longicosta* spend time in their respective surrounding algal garden. There they graze with discretion to stimulate growth, and chew only unwanted algae down to bare rock. They also actively defend their garden against any other limpet. The latter digs its long spines under the shell and then pushes violently until the poacher retreats. Incidentally, *P. cochlear* so effectively monopolize space (up to 2,600 per square metre), that the young are forced to live on their backs until a garden becomes available!

Bevan Pank, Science Writer

To Burn or not to Burn

What follows is an extract from "Park News" June 2002

A recent control burn by the Cape Peninsula National Park (CPNP) on Trappieskop above Kalk Bay and Clovelly has elicited a vociferous response from residents.

"Many have questioned the reason for the prescribed burn and its effects on the animals and the people in this area. The CPNP would like to provide some insight into this highly complex situation", says park manager, Howard Langley.

"The management of fires for the natural regeneration of fynbos is a difficult one for conservation managers. Throw into the mix, fire-prone invasive alien plants, human carelessness, arsonists, fragile soils and highly inflammable homes and this complexity increases exponentially.

"It is well documented that fynbos needs fire at regular intervals - generally 12 to 20 years - to maintain its globally unique biodiversity. In terms of its conservation mandate and in keeping with the policy arrived at during the extensive public process leading to our Integrated Environmental Management System, the park has to ensure that a proper fire regime is maintained. If not, it will lose some plant species forever.

"Fynbos is, however, susceptible to invasion by alien vegetation which greatly increases the fuel load on the Cape Peninsula.

"A major programme has been initiated by

the park to clear invasive alien plants, but the resulting dead plant material often cannot be removed from the sites because of the inaccessibility of the steep slopes and the resultant high costs of removal. Wood from the cleared plants is stacked into piles, which if burnt can cause localised scars where little plant of animal life survives. Removing them, on the other hand, disperses alien seeds and causes erosion.

"A recent investigation has revealed that the majority of fires on the Cape Peninsula are caused by accident (cooking fires, discarded cigarette butts, etc) or arson. Only about 5% are the result of such natural causes as lightning or rock falls. An increasing number of recent fires can be attributed to arson.

"Our fire-fighting capacity is also limited. Although response times are rapid, a wildfire typically occurs in extreme weather conditions and rages out of control very quickly. Fire management deploys large numbers of resources and is very expensive. A moderate-size wildfire could cost in excess of R1m to bring under control.

"The natural fauna and flora of the park have co-evolved with fires over hundreds of thousands of years and are little effected by natural fires. A fire burnt in cool conditions allows animals to escape by either outrunning the fire or by hiding under rocks and in holes.

"Much of the historical town planning has made no allowances for a natural or wildfire regime and very few property owners have taken precautions to protect their properties from fire.

"There is perception in the minds of the public that fire is BAD and should immediately be extinguished. Fire is, however, an integral part of our natural environment and if properly managed, can become a constructive force in conservation," Says Langley.

Precautionary measures instituted by the park include the creation of an extensive firebreak network, the clearing of all invasive alien plants, a programme of controlled burns outside the high risk season, co-operative programmes with other fire-fighting agencies, the establishment of a volunteer fire-fighting unit, the mobilisation of fire-fighting resources and the initiation of public education programmes.

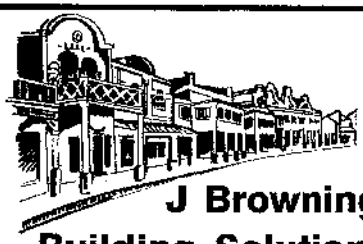
The park's invasive alien plant removal programme is financed by funds from the Global Environment Facility and Ukuvuka/Operation Firestop. Thus, no taxpayers' money is used.

"Trappieskop was part of the park's control burn programme as the vegetation was in excess of 50 years old," says Gavin Bell, CPNP Section Ranger.

Editor's Note: Fynbos is a fire sub-climax and fire is therefore a factor in its survival. Kirstenbosch advises that it is the smoke that is the catalyst for germination, so if it's fynbos we want, then we need fire.

Check the amazing show of colour in the landscape after the last big fire of January 19, 2000. Fynbos is our valued heritage and should be preserved - with fire.

Invasion of aliens exacerbates the problem in that stands of thickets develop up to 20 metres tall - dangerous in the event of a fire - so regular *controlled* burning is essential; plus alien removal of course.



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News from Simon's Town Naval Base

TESTING COMBAT READINESS

Red Lion, a major SA Navy fotch preparation exercise, took place over the period 12 to 25 October 2002.

The exercise tested the combat capabilities and preparedness, which included missile and torpedo firings of the SA Navy fleet.

Eight warships and a Dolphin class submarine, the SAS Assegaai operated as a task group under the command of a task group commander. The warships deployed from 14 to 24 October between Simon's Town and Port Elizabeth. Taking part in the exercise were the SAS Drakensberg, SAS Outeniqua, SAS Umkhonto, SAS Umhlatuze, SAS Kaapa, SAS Reet, SAS Assegaai, SAS Makhanda, and SAS Galeshewe. Two Oryx helicopters from the SA Air Force were on board the SAS Drakensberg and the Valk Offensive, and two Cheetah fighter aircraft participated during various phases of the exercise.

Elements from the SAMHS also participated in the exercise. The objectives of the exercise were to test the fleet's combat capability and the health capability of the SA Navy, as well as to ensure the capability of the fleet command to support a task group, and to exercise task group co-ordination in a multi-ship scenario.

Article by Lt Cdr Prince Tshabalala, PRO Exercise Red Lion, reprinted with the kind permission of South African Soldier, Vol 19 No 1 January 2003.

Memories of Fishing in the Good Old Days - 8

The period during which hundreds of large Bluefin were taken over a period of several years was also memorable. These fish were accompanied by acrobatic by Salt Bay commercial skiffs who were collaborating just to the east of Fish Hoek in earlier days. Apparently

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they were smashed up on numerous occasions and put in down to large Johannes on full a large Stud fish was brought to the boat on a handline but lost at the attempt to gaff same. One would leave Simonis Town at a respectable hour somewhat around 5am and so slowly bring the boat towards fish Hook picking up Elf and Yellowtail on the way. One would head for the 15-20 metre area in the middle of Fish Hoek Bay and drop anchor. On many days from memory one would see the mussel boats in the area if the water was clear or when the blue water was in the bay. Peter Berg's system was to have a large buoy on the end of the anchor rope which had a gaffed eye and was dropped over the transom post. The idea being if we are did not have to pull on the anchor when a fish was hooked but merely throw the rope and buoy overboard to be retrieved later. This also had its moments as on several occasions on returning to the area having either lost a fish or having been smashed up our buoy was conspicuous by its absence and on closer inspection it was found that some fine spirit had instead of dropping his own anchor has merely picked up our buoy. The buoy was quickly returned to the water on request as argument was weak when contemplating a sharp 10 foot high bow bearing down on you.

Once anchored the one diesel was shut down and the other left idle, sea-water was pumped via a bilge bailbank on the afterdeck on to the rolling cabs and so same was under pressure from a 3" hose was also used to spray the surface of the area once the fish arrived and we started to churn. Light lines were brought out and all hands turned to catch mackerel which abounded in those days. The mackerel were released into the live bait tank and at about this we would start to churn over the stern and to Port & Starboard. Weekend angling continued and Elf also would start to show up in the west. No heavy lines were put in at this stage as the baits would have been quickly knocked off by the increasing activity around the boat. Several members of the crew were posted fairly high up on the elf casting about to watch for the first signs of the fish. Fins easily seen in the clear water from high up with Polaroid specs. Times were set for the first sighting, and the almost whispered "they are here" would set each of us off on his specific duty. Churning would be stepped up, live Mackerel would be hooked through the skin behind the head and paid out over the side on two or three reels. Decron was the line used and a spaced lead taken down to the hook.

Churning was being thrown out by two or three people and fresh Mackerel were still being caught by others. One person would spray the surface over the spreading cloud of churn with sea-water from a pressure hose and every one waited. None of the rods were put down nor were the ratchets on, they were held by the respective angler on free-speed, who let out only some 10 metres or so of line. By now the water had turned cloudy white with all the blood and foam from the churning and spraying. Suddenly an angler would sit up quickly and all eyes would follow his line, the rod in his line would straighten up slowly and the spool would start to unwind in total slow motion at barely a walking pace. One could almost hear a pin drop it was so quiet. The fish was allowed to peel off about 50 yards of line and the lucky angler would say some thing like "Oh well here goes nothing", the clutch was engaged and as the line came tight the angler would strike once or twice. Instantly all hell would break loose, the reel would virtually scream as the fish took off seawards not being able to sound in the shallow water of the bay.

Each crew man had his job, the skipper would already be at the controls on the bridge, James senior would fire up the second diesel and I would dash up to the bow and if the fish was running to port would throw the buoyed anchor rope to starboard and vice versa. This was accomplished within some 30 seconds and Rottenberg would quickly build up to full speed. It was the person's job to stand directly behind

the angler and with both arms outstretched point the direction that the fish was running to the helmsman, as on one or two occasions fish had right-angled under the boat and had parted the line. By this time some 7 or 800 yards of line had disappeared off the reel and water was poured over the smoking reel (and angler). One particular fish that I remember took us to Roman Rock, back to Fish Hoek, repeated five times before any significant line recovery was noted. This fish was then gaffed by flying gaff and all hands tailed on to drag the fish over the transom. This specimen weighed in at over 500lbs.

One of the rules formed on Plettenberg was that should a fish tire out an angler to the extent that he could no longer carry on, the line was cut, rather than passed on to a fresh angler.

Blue-Fin tuna were also caught in the Fish Hoek and Glencairn treknets but the damage they caused to the nets made them unwelcome prey.

Sadly many fish are taken by the trekkers that are spawning thereby reducing the stocks the following year. A spawning fish will, from experience, not go for bait, spinner or lure, reducing many a boat angler to total frustration when surrounded by a shoal of spawning Yellowtail that just swim fixedly in one direction not in any way to be tempted. But throw a treknet around them and you wipe out millions of next year's unborn fingerlings. The End

Brian James

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

February 2003

Station 10, C crew, saw in the New Year in support of the Millennium Committee at the New Years eve disco on Jubilee Square, Simon's Town. The main casualties were persons that suffered cut feet from pieces of broken glass that were strewn about the area one young woman had to have several stitches to a large cut in her foot. During the proceedings the 4x4 Mobile had to go and attend a head-on collision on Runciman's Drive where a drunken motor cyclist escaped uninjured from the accident but suffered the indignity of police arrest and all that goes with it.

The Station Shorelink Committee annual street collection in Fish Hoek and Simon's Town on Saturday the 4th of January realized the sum of R2589- 73. All those who assisted with the collection are sincerely thanked for their sterling effort and the people who gave so generously are gratefully thanked.

At a general meeting of Station 10 members on the 16th of January Crew Member badges were awarded to Bradley Thebus, Andrew Edwards, Cassie Carstens, Tanya Hair and Natasha Hair by Statcom Dave Roberts on successful completion of their crew training. Nicky Portland and Sharlot Porteus are welcomed as trainee crew.

On Saturday 25 January a cheque to the value of R 120000.00 was presented to Station Commander Dave Roberts by Mr. Tony van Loggerenberg on behalf of the Nomads Golf Club. The funds were proceeds from a Golf Day in November 2002 organised by the Nomads on behalf of certain charity organizations of which Station 10 was one. These necessary funds will go towards the purchase of a 4x4 vehicle which will replace the existing 18 year old 4x4.

Saturday the 1st of February sees the launching and naming ceremony of the Stations new 5.5 metre surf rider. This event takes place at the Station 10 Boathouse on Cole Point at 15:00 where invited guests will attend the ceremony. Station 10 crew members have been working hard to get the boat house ship shape for the ceremony and hopefully all will go well on the day. Most crew members have tried and tested the new vessel and are all very satisfied with it's capability and it's superiority over the previous craft.

The Cape Point Hoby Challenge will take place on Saturday 1st of March and all proceeds from entry fees will be donated to Station 10. Both our boats will be deployed on that day to act as safety craft for the participants. This year more of a carnival atmosphere will accompany this event held at the Fish Hoek Hoby Club on Fish Hoek beach. Various beach activities will take place such as surfing events, lifesaving exhibitions and races and surfski events. Food stalls will be open and it is hoped to keep the public on the beach while the hoby race is in progress and for the eventual return of the craft.

The holiday period was relatively quiet from an N.S.R.I. point of view in False Bay. Few calls were experienced and those that did occur were competently attended to.

On the 26th of November at 14:55 Chops Craig and Darren Zimmerman responded to assist a 16 year old male with a suspected spinal injury on the rocks at Seaforth. The Station 10 mobile equipped with a Stokes basket attended the incident where Naval Medics removed the patient to the Naval Medical Centre in a Naval Ambulance.

Station 10 were called by Port Control, Cape Town, on the 5th of December to investigate a person reported in trouble in an inflatable boat off Millers Point. Upon confirmation "Spirit of Freemasonry" launched with Lee Adcock as Coxswain, Dave Fellows, Kobus Lourens and Jaco Els the Station Mobile with Darren Zimmerman, Chops Craig and Warren Combrink went along as radio link. As the boat arrived at the scene the Skymed helicopter left the scene at 17:43. The area was searched for 15 minutes when a person in a kayak was encountered who informed the Coxswain that he had been the person in the rubber boat but had gone inshore and exchanged the rubber boat for a kayak. On progressing towards the Base a call was received via the S.A.P.S. to report that a body had been sighted in the sea off the Glencairn quarry. Rescue 10 searched the waters off the quarry and the 4x4 patrolled from ashore nothing was found and the boat and mobile returned to base at 18:20.

At 16:30 on the 7th of December a call was received to go to the scene of a person in trouble in the water off Fisherman's beach at Froggy Pond. The 4x4 manned by Louis Duimelaar and Chops Craig responded to the scene where Cape Medical Response were as well and C.P.R. was in progress and was terminated after 30 minutes. 10 Mobile then transported the body of a middle aged male to the Simon's Town police station.

At 19:00 on the 11th of December a call was received to attend a C.P.R. in progress at Fisherman's beach again. Upon arrival found Dr. van der Merwe on the scene, the lady patient was already deceased. Warren Combrink was requested by the S.A.P.S. to transport the body to False Bay hospital. This was accomplished by Warren and Karin Combrink in the 4x4 Mobile.

At 14:15 on the 12th of December a call from Cape Medical Response to assist at Miller's Point slipway to a patient coming in on a vessel "Yellow Fin". On arrival of vessel at the slip the patient was a female with severe abdominal pains who was driven to False Bay hospital in the C.M.R. vehicle. Mobile returned to base.

On the 24th of December at 09:00 received a call from the S.A.P.S. to locate an overdue hiker in the mountain above Glencairn Heights at Elsies Peak. Chops Craig answered the call in the Station 4x4 where the hiker was found fit but her dog was struggling to come down the mountain. The lady and her dog were assisted down to the road. On the 27th of December at 15:55 a call was received from Port Control to assist the False Bay Yacht Club to tow a vessel off Longbeach at Simon's Town. The ski boat "Shelley" was towed off the beach and secured at the yacht club jetty.

The first call of the New Year occurred on

the 5th of January 2003 when Port Control reported two kayakers in trouble off Fisherman's beach. "Spirit of Freemasonry" was launched at 14:40 Cox: Darren Zimmerman and crew Dave Jenkins, Bradley Thebus, Andrew Edwards and Stuart Buchanan and proceeded to the scene where one kayaker and two kayaks were assisted to safety. The Station Mobile, which had proceeded to the scene by road, with Warren and Toine Combrink were able to assist one paddler to safety up the rocks. Her boat had capsized and been recovered by Rescue 10.

Things do not bode well for 2003 with war clouds gathering in the Middle East. We hope and pray this year will go well for us and that safety at sea will be a priority in our land. However when there are calls Station 10 will be ready to attend to them even more so now with the aid of our new equipment. We are forever grateful to them that have helped to provide it.

Yours aye, Don Dollery

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The Night Sky 2003

The night sky has not been very clear during December and January so that many of the old favourites have not been observed. In addition the day sky was cloudy for those who went to observe the total solar eclipse in the far north. For the last few weeks there has been no planet visible in the west in the evening sky, which is quite unusual. Mercury could have been seen by residents in Scarborough and Kommetjie from the 1st to the 6th of January at sunset.

In the early evening Aquarius will be setting in the west, followed by Pisces, Aries the Ram, the Pleiades (the Seven Sisters), Taurus the Bull, with his bright eye called Aldebaran, Gemini, the Twins, Castor and Pollux and Cancer the Crab, are all found on the ecliptic (the pathway of the planets).

Orion, the Huntsman, is accompanied by his Big Dog Canis Major, containing the brightest star in the sky Sirius, called the Dog Star,

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followed by Canis Minor, Little Dog with Procyon a bright yellow star. Betelgeuse, Sirius and Procyon make up an equilateral triangle in the sky, each measure four hand widths held at arm's length, apart. There are no other stars in this empty triangle. Nearby is Taurus, the Bull, containing the Pleiades, the Seven Sisters and the V-shaped Hyades with Aldebaran the bright eye of the Bull on the western side of the Milky Way. Job was asked "Canst thou bind the sweet cluster of the Pleiades?" See Job 39 v 31.

On the east side of the sky is Gemini, the heavenly twins Castor and Pollux, the sons of Jupiter, who saw the devotion of Pollux to his mortally wounded brother Castor as an everlasting symbol of brotherly love, so he placed them together as twin stars of equal brightness, so that they were as close in heaven as they had been on earth!

Orion, the Hunter, is easily found in the sky, as the three bright blue stars which make up his belt are easily seen. From his belt hangs the fainter sword made up of M42, the Great Orion Nebula and Theta Orionis. The famous Trapezium is part of the sword, with the four stars having a background of pink gas clouds - which may be seen with binoculars or a telescope. The body of Orion is made up of Betelgeuse, the armpit of the Giant, a Red Giant with a diameter of 300 million miles about the distance of the orbit of Mars from the Sun. Other stars are Kappa Orion, Rigel, the Foot, and Bellatrix.

South of these constellations is Musca the Fly, the Diamond Cross, the False Cross and the Southern Cross all on the Milky Way. On the western side of the Milky Way in this region is the famous river Eridanus with the bright Achenar meaning the end of the river. Nearby is Hydrus the Water Snake with the Large Magellanic Cloud to the west of it, and the Small Magellanic Cloud on its east side. "Mons Mensa" Table Mountain, is a small constellation near the table cloth formed by the LMC. The name was given to it by the Abbe de Lacouille who came to the Cape during the governorship of Ryk van Tulbach. This was a hundred years after Commander Jan van Riebeeck had established the refreshment station at the Cape in 1652. De Lacouille, the well known French astronomer was sent by the French Academy of Sciences to measure the arc of the meridian from his observatory in Strand Street to Aurora in Namaqualand. He measured and plotted the positions of 9000 stars, unknown to those living in the northern hemisphere, 42 nebulae and 14 new constellations. The house he lived in was situated below the Koopmans De Wat Huis in Strand Street and his observatory was behind his house.

THE PLANETS:

Mercury, magnitude +1.0 is visible in the east in the morning sky in Sagittarius before sunrise at 3:50am until March 12th. On the 4th it is at its greatest elongation and on the 21st is 1° south of Neptune. There will be a rare transit across the face of the Sun on May 7th from 7:12am.

Venus, magnitude -4.5, is an exceptionally bright morning planet. It is worth getting up early before sunrise to see it in the east. On the 27th it will be 5° north of the Moon. It is exceptionally bright.

Mars, magnitude +1.5 sets between 1am at the beginning of the month, to 10 minutes past midnight at the month's end. It will be found in Ophinchus but moves in Sagittarius early in March. On the 25th it is 2° north of the Moon.

Jupiter, magnitude -2.5 rises at the beginning of February at 5:30am, but at the end of the month at 3:45am. It is a bright object in the morning sky until May, when it will rise at 11pm.

Saturn, magnitude -0.4 is visible in the evening sky in Taurus but sets at midnight at the end of the month. The rings, which are opened, is a spectacular sight as seen in a telescope or binoculars, as it is tilted at 27° to our line of sight. It sets at 2am on the 1st and at midnight at the end of the month and is easily found at the feet of Gemini. On the 12th it is 3° south of the Moon. Saturn and Mars both set at the same time from the end of the month a few minutes after midnight.

Uranus, magnitude +5.9 is too close to the Sun to be seen, but will reappear in the

morning sky in March. It is in conjunction with the Sun on the 18th.
Neptune, magnitude +8.0 is in the morning sky in Capricorn from the end of February. On the 28th it will be 5° north of the Moon.
Pluto, magnitude +13.9 is in Ophinchus at the beginning of the month, when it moves into Serpens, until early May. It is only visible for those using a telescope larger than 10".

THE MOON: There will be two total eclipses of the Moon this year. The first is on the 16th May at 3hrs 5mins and the second on November 8th at 15 minutes after midnight.
New Moon is on the 1st; First Quarter on the 9th. Full Moon is on the 17th; Last Quarter on the 23rd. Apogee is on the 8th and perigee on the 18th.

THE SUN: There is an annular eclipse on the 11th August and a total eclipse on the 23rd November. Both will not be visible in South Africa. On the 1st sunrise is at 06hr07mins and sunset at 19hr52. On the 28th sunrise is at 06hr33 and sunset at 19hr23. There will be a rare transit of Mercury across the face of the Sun on the 7th May at 7:15am which ends at 12:31. Sunfilters may be fitted to binoculars to view this rare event.

METEOR SHOWERS: On the 8th the Alpha Centaurids shower is from 10pm until 3:30am and the Gamme Normids occur between February 25th until March 22 from midnight to sunrise. There are several comets expected this year; Kopft, Linear, Brewington, Linear-Neat, Linear, Encke, and Kudo-Fujikawa. Comet Kudo-Fujikawa, magnitude 5.3 which is presently in Sagittarius, sets at 8:35pm and rises at 7am (22nd January) so it is not visible. RA 19hr 40min 37sec. Comet Neat C/2001 Q4, magnitude 7.8 is at present below the Great Square of Pegasus and above the circlet of Pisces. RA 23hrs 55min 13.9sec. One of my readers kindly gave me the co-ordinates, for which I thank him.This comet is visible soon after dark in the west.

Peter I van Blommestein

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CRIME REPORT

On the 1st of April 2003 the new Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000) will come into force, thus repealing the old Arms and Ammunition Act. In order to inform the general public and specifically residents, an exposé of the new Act will be given in this column.

FIREARMS CONTROL ACT 2000: Chapter 6: Licence to possess firearm:
Separate licence in respect of each firearm: 11. (1) The Registrar must issue a separate licence in respect of each firearm licensed in terms of this Chapter. (2) Despite subsection (1), the Registrar may issue to a person a single document containing licences in respect of more than one firearm.
Additional licences: 12. (1) The Registrar may issue an additional licence in respect of a firearm contemplated in section 13, 14, 15 and 16 to every person who resides on the same premises as the holder of the licence in respect of the firearm in question. (2) Every holder of an additional licence must comply with all the requirements for the issue of a licence in respect of the firearm in

question. (3) If the holder of an additional licence contemplated in subsection (1) moves from the premises in question, such additional licence lapses and the person to whom such licence was issued must return that licence to the Registrar forthwith.

Licence to possess firearm for self-defence: 13. (1) A firearm in respect of which a licence may be issued in terms of this section is any - (a) shotgun which is not fully or semi automatic, or (b) handgun which is not fully automatic. (2) The Registrar may issue a licence under this section to any natural person who - (a) needs a firearm for self-defence and (b) cannot reasonably satisfy that need by means other than the possession of a firearm. (3) No person may hold more than one licence in terms of this section. (4) A firearm in respect of which a licence has been issued in terms of this section may be used where it is safe to use the firearm and for a lawful purpose.

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THE UNCOUTH VISITOR

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Cursing folk to get uptight.
said Mugabe, "But, my boyo -
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Peter Law	Treasurer	786 3880	[illegible]
Cap. Du Plessis	SAPS	786-1822	
(Alt. Insps. Store/Carstens)		786-2127	
Manu Choudree	Security	782-7241	
Geoff Palmer	Marketing Campaign	786-5402	[illegible]
Heather Lunderstedt	Public Relations	786 5505w	
		786 5794h	[illegible]
Ian Howie	Neighbourhood Watch	786-1442	[illegible]
Nadima Smith	Secretary	786-2171	

SIMON'S TOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Peter Johnson	At Ease Book Shop	786-[illegible]	Chairperson
George Bowes	St George's Jewellery	786-1496	Vice Chairperson
Hester Fourie	The Sheriff	786-1[illegible]	Treasurer
Matilda Coetzee	Central Hotel	786-5775	PRO

SIMON'S TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Fran Freeman	Chairperson and New Year's Eve Party	782 5544
Bruce Parker	Vice-chairperson,	786 2935
Ian Allan	Treasurer, STT and STADCO	782 2736
Eric Loggart	Property Watch	786 3860
Sir Rupert Bromley	Glencairn Vlei and other Glencairn matters	782 6400
Peter Johnson	Business Association	786 1374
Dirkvah Niekerk	Roads, Drainage and STT	786 1320
Sharon Besma	Environment	786 1072
Justin Bushmann	National Parks Board	786 2329
Luyanda Lombo	Redhill Community	780 9123
Manu Choudree	Safety and security	782 7241
Cdr Jaco Theunissen	SA Navy	786 3725
John Morris	Communications and Water Quality	786 1765
Nicki Holderness	Ward Councillor	786 3208

Tide Table - February 2003

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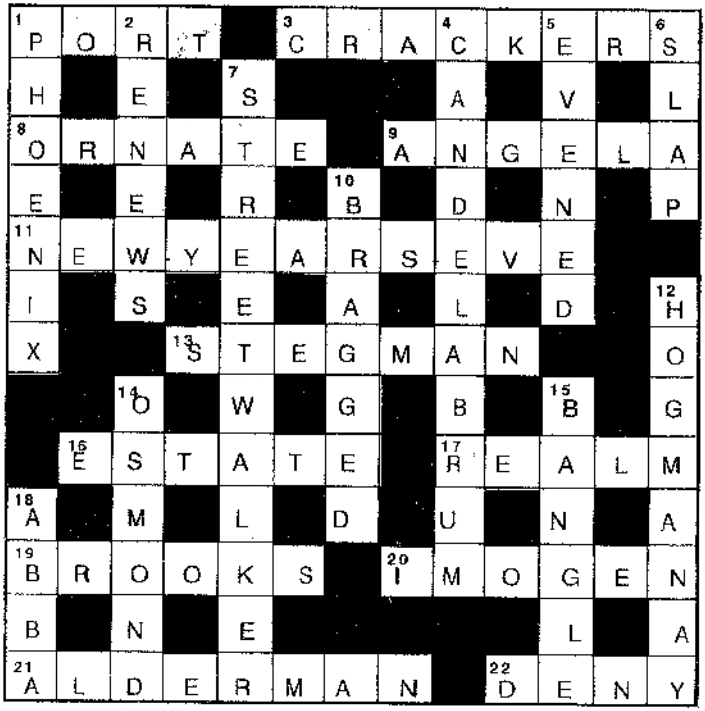
Day of Week / Dag van Week		High/Hoog water		Low/Laag water		Sun/Son		Moon/Maan	
		a.m. vm.	p.m. nm.	a.m. vm.	p.m. nm.	Rises Op-komst	Sets Onder-gang	Rises Op-komst	Sets Onder-gang
		h.m. u.m.	h.m. u.m.	h.m. u.m.	h.m. u.m.	h.m. u.m.	h.m. u.m.	h.m. u.m.	h.m. u.m.
1	**Sat/Sat**	**0327**	**1537**	**0933**	**2150**	**0607**	**1952**	**0546**	**2018**
2	Sun/Son	0403	1613	1009	2222	0608	1951	0649	2054
3	Mon/Maan	0437	1646	1042	2252	0609	1950	0751	2125
4	Tue/Dins	0509	1717	1114	2320	0610	1949	0850	2153
5	Wed/Woens	0541	1748	1146	2349	0611	1948	0947	2219
6	Thur/Don	0612	1820	1220	—	0612	1948	1043	2245
7	Fri/Vry	0646	1856	0020	1257	0613	1947	1138	2311
8	**Sat/Sat**	**0727**	**1943**	**0055**	**1344**	**0614**	**1946**	**1233**	**2339**
9	Sun/Son	0821	2053	0143	1448	0615	1945	1329	—
10	Mon/Maan	0940	2237	0259	1617	0616	1944	1427	0009
11	Tue/Dins	1109	—	0448	1744	0617	1943	1526	0045
12	Wed/Woens	0004	1218	0611	1845	0618	1943	1625	0126
13	Thur/Don	0101	1311	0706	1930	0618	1942	1722	0215
14	Fri/Vry	0144	1355	0749	2009	0619	1941	1815	0311
15	**Sat/Sat**	**0222**	**1435**	**0828**	**2047**	**0620**	**1940**	**1903**	**0415**
16	Sun/Son	0259	1515	0907	2124	0621	1939	1945	0522
17	Mon/Maan	0337	1554	0946	2201	0622	1938	2023	0632
18	Tue/Dins	0415	1634	1027	2240	0623	1937	2057	0742
19	Wed/Woens	0455	1716	1108	2320	0624	1936	2129	0852
20	Thur/Don	0536	1758	1152	—	0625	1934	2202	1001
21	Fri/Vry	0619	1845	0002	1239	0626	1933	2235	1110
22	**Sat/Sat**	**0707**	**1939**	**0048**	**1333**	**0627**	**1932**	**2312**	**1219**
23	Sun/Son	0805	2051	0144	1440	0628	1931	2353	1329
24	Mon/Maan	0922	2226	0300	1610	0629	1929	—	1437
25	Tue/Dins	1056	2358	0442	1745	0630	1928	0041	1542
26	Wed/Woens	1221	—	0614	1856	0631	1927	0134	1640
27	Thur/Don	0105	1323	0718	1947	0631	1926	0233	1732
28	Fri/Vry	0154	1409	0805	2026	0632	1925	0335	1816

New Moon/Nuwemaan Feb. 01 1251 — Full Moon/Volmaan Feb. 12 0153
First Quarter/Eerste Kwartier Feb. 09 1308 — Last Quarter/Laaste Kwartier Feb. 23 1847

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 20



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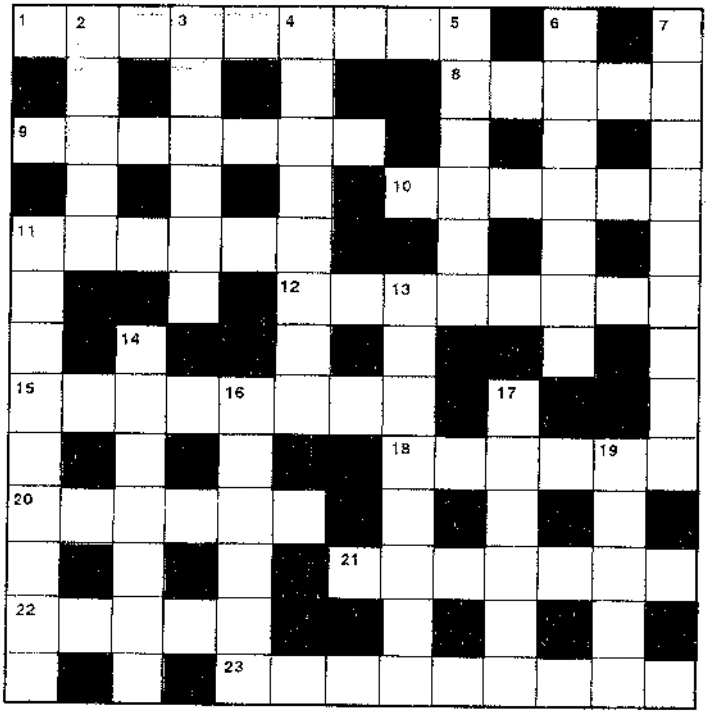

CLUES ACROSS

1 A celestial body leading to a table is right for sailors (9)
8 An exclamation of surprise following a mountain is a first letter (5)
9 On the throne, and expecting to be without Philip initially (7)
10 Does one's business life go at headlong speed? (6)
11 Water vapour with little rain in it becomes a river (6)
12 Were cooking utensils before east and south, for wide areas (8)
15 Terrify by being correct in low,marshy land in E. England (8)
18 Want the French to be useful in sewing (6)
21 Where a number of Porpoises, for instance, might go to aquire knowledge (7)
22 This animal sounds as if it has a sore throat (5)
23 Practiced a part with a funeral carriage in colour (9)

CLUES DOWN

2 Buy someone a drink for a special occasion (5)
3 Park-keeper of a tripartite road in Fish Hoek? (6)
4 Soothing cream converts men to tin (8)
5 A magazine advertisement shortly is up for a local Park (2,4)
6 Assuage vegetables consumed by a simian animal (7)
7 A stone pyramid team is to be found in Glencairn (9)
11 The ocean going out includes Gay and Kleintuin roads (8)
13 Place is disturbed about the pub at the very top (8)
14 Gil gets fat in the road in Froggy Pond (7)
16 Threat is disturbed covering the head - and mad, perhaps (6)
17 Eat up devil - less forty-nine - belongs to us (6)
19 Unwell in the French town - in France, of course (5)

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 21 February 2003 • 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 February 2003

PENSIONERS' FREE MONTHLY SHOPPING BUS: To Pick n' Pay Longbeach Mall & Sun Valley. From Murdoch Valley (Ixia Crescent terminus) via Simon's Town & Fish Hoek and return. Next trip Thursday 06 February. For times and pick up points please phone 021 786 3137.

ARTSCAPE'S FESTIVE SEASON PRODUCTIONS & EVENTS ***27 Dec - 22 Feb:*** African Footprint - Internationally acclaimed indigenous Afro-fusion extravaganza in the Artscape Theatre. ***6 Jan - 8 Mar:*** Collaborations - Mini drama festival for new South African works from the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng in the Artscape Arena. ***17 Jan - 22 Feb:*** Two Gentlemen from Verona - Open air Shakespearean Drama at the Maynardville Open Air Theatre. ***19 Jan - 23 Feb:*** La Sylphide - Two-act classic Ballet set in the Scottish highlands at the Maynardville Open Air Theatre. ***25 Jan - 1 Mar:*** Sunset Boulevard - International smash hit musical in the Artscape Opera House. ***26 Feb - 28 Feb:*** 6th International Design Indaba - This event also features the annual Young Designers Awards and the New Media Awards. **For more info call Michael Maas on 021 410 9921.**

TALK: DR DAVID KLATZOW will present a lecture on "Forensic Science" which includes work on the Helderberg air disaster, at the Simon's Town Museum on Wednesday 19 February 5:30 for 6pm. Donation R10.

SIMON'S TOWN ART GROUP'S 4TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION will take place in the magnificent courtyard of The British Hotel, Queen's Road, Simon's Town from Saturday 22 February to Sunday 2 March, 10am - 4pm daily. Rear Adm JE Louw will open with event at 12 noon on Sat 22 February.

FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE Saturday 15 February at 9am Botanical Marine Excursion led by Professor Bolton of UCT. Meet at the parking area at Dalebrook (opp Church). Note: starting at 9am to co-incide to low tide. Bring slip proof footwear for walking and wading among algae-covered rocks. For more info call 786-3890.

AN EVENING OF MUSIC IN THE MAJESTIC GARDENS of Admiralty House featuring the SA Navy Band on 23 February at 4pm. Gates open at 3pm, R50 per person. Bring your own picnic basket and refreshments. Regret no high chairs or tables allowed. For enquiries or bookings call Karen Knight 787-3860 or 082 415 5151 or the Simon's Town Publicity Association.

ST VALENTINE'S DAY PIANO RECITAL The eminent pianist Francois du Toit, will present a delightful programme of works by Scarlatti, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Schubert and Ginastera at the Fish Hoek Civic Centre on 14 February at 8pm. Ticket are R25 and available from AP Jones, Dog's Whiskers or the door. For more info call Pat 782-2252.

TEARS FUNDRAISER on Sunday 16 February 3pm - 7pm at the False Bay Yacht Club. Entertainment for the children and music by Bev and Wille. A painting of Simon's Town by Bev de Meyer will be raffled - tickets R5 each or 3 for R10. For more info call Chris Kaier 786-5591 or 782-5890.

TALK: MS PAVITRAY PILLAY OF DEAT "Whose fish is it anyway? Competition between gannets, seals and the fisheries. Thursday 20 February at 7pm for 7:30pm at the Simon's Town Museum. Refreshments available for small donation. Non members welcome.

ORGAN RECITAL StFrancis Church, Court Road on Friday 7th March 2003 from 13:10 to 13:50. Alan Clapp, Cape Town City Hall recitalist will perform works by Handel, Bach, Boellman and Warlock.

Deadline for March edition Friday 21 February 2003

Next Publication Monday 3 March 2003.

Contact Sue Sturman on 786 5798 or 786 2436 for **forthcoming events only.** Payment for Snoektown Calling will no longer be accepted at these premises.