SNOEKTOWN *CALLING*

Vol 5 Issue 8 3 March 2003

March Sponsor - Anonymous;
Simon's Town New Year's Eve Function Committee

Magnificent Belmont House

As many local and foreign visitors acknowledge, the people of Simon's Town have good reason to cherish their fine historic buildings. One of the not so well known is Belmont House, which stands in spacious grounds well back from St. George's Street directly opposite the Magistrate's Office. The land was formerly part of Black Town - owned by the British Admiralty - where freed prize Negroes were allowed to settle. Although presently unoccupied and in need of repainting, this typical Edwardian house is still impressive. In fact, as the formal home for high ranking officers in the South African Navy, it is described by them as "outstanding" or an "undiscovered gem".

Belmont House was built between 1900 and 1901 by Sir John Jackson Ltd, to accommodate their senior staff during the construction of what is known as the East Dockyard. Jackson had been awarded the ?2,5 million contract on July 27, 1900 and completed it in 1910. However, since war broke out in 1914, he did not wind up his firm until 1919. The house was then to be accommodation for a newly-created post of Captain-in-Charge, Simon's Town, the first incumbent being Capt. J.U. Fairlie RN - who was appointed on June 15, 1919. The last Royal Navy Captain-in-Charge to live there was Capt. H.F. Bone - resident until the hand-over to the SA Navy in 1957.

The Chief Constructor in Royal Naval times lived at L'Esperance next to the Dutch Reformed Church. Of similar appearance to Belmont House, this residence was later demolished to make way for the new submarine-base building. The Chief Constructor - now seconded to the SA Navy - moved over to Belmont House until 1975. Many illustrious senior naval officers have since occupied the house from time to time. They include "Woody" Woodburne - who later became Chief of the Navy, Admiral Chris Bennett, Commodore John Ferris, Commodore Trevor Beddy, Rear Admiral (J.G.) Arnè Söderlund and - most recently - Rear Admiral (J.G.) Jan Rabe.

From its double gate, the house is approached either up a path or curved road leading to a large, shady parking area on the sea-facing side. Between them stands an ornate Victorian-era street lamp. Although no longer in use, there is also a wide stepped tradesmen's entrance to the car park's end - where it abuts against the old public library. The main entrance to the house itself is on the north side and faces a large stone-terraced garden. There are lawns, flower beds and well established trees at different levels.

Since the house is built on sloping ground, it appears from the car park to have three stories. Actually, the ground floor is a very large basement. Its frontage has two beautiful bougainvillea between intermittent arches, which partially extend along the building's north side. The plastered brick walling is on average 500mm thick and some is dressed in stone. Behind the arches is an entrance to a storage room and extensive servant quarters with a stairway leading only to the kitchen. Not even ghosts are allowed to eavesdrop on informal discussions on - er - naval strategy!

Although parts of the ground and first floor balconies are enclosed in glass, both have sunblinds along their open sections between timber columns painted a light "naval" blue. Instead of balusters, there are simple board panels. Like the fascias, brickwork and three chimneys atop the slate roof, these have been painted white. The overall effect is a clean look with just a touch of colour, that does not distract from the rich masonry.

Burmese teak was used for many internal finishes. These include the central stairway, window frames and some areas of flooring. The white-painted ceilings of tongued-and-grooved timber are typical of the period, as also are the cornices, door frames and sash windows.

continued on page 2

Editorial

Good news as regards our local law institution: our magistrates court is again back to normal and is in full operation; gone are those horrible prefabs that looked like ships' cargo containers - perhaps they were.

The reader will recall my reference in the February issue, to a disturbing controversy about proposed amendments to the immigration regulations; well, the drama and controversy continues. A judgment in the Cape Town High Court recently ruled that the Dept of Home Affairs was out of order, not following prescribed procedures and the proposed amendments were null and void.

Now, a certain Mario Ambrosini, Financial Adviser to the Minister of Home Affairs, at a seminar arranged by the Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain, Germany and France, to debate the issue, had this to say. I quote: "Swallows" - people who came here for up to six months in the year, who could produce a return ticket and often had holiday homes here - would not have to provide proof of income. They could come into the country with a three-month holiday permit that could be extended. (Cape Times business report Thursday February 20).

In passing, one speculates about the origin of the stated income of R25 000 per person, per month. Simple arithmetic will show that the equivalent in pounds sterling is probably what a visitor would need to live in London - is this simple tit for tat. The saga is not over yet.

At long last our Section 21 Co is formerly registered and the Simon's Town Amenities Development Company has held its first board meeting and appointed its office bearers. I will be watching developments with great interest.

Reg Loxton - Editor
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Down the Historical Mile

The February meeting of SLAP was slow to get going because there wasn't much to talk about - until Stoffel Boesman arrived, waving a newspaper and pointing vigorously at an article. It says here, Mr Chairman, that Winnie Mandela is proposing to go to Baghdad and offer herself as a "human shield" to protect the citizens of Iraq when the Americans start their war.

Well, the "human shield" bit caused a problem because few if any knew what the term meant. So there was a blank state of mind until Clara Fijnbosch suggested that perhaps it means that you throw yourself in front of an enemy tank and sacrifice your life for the cause. Well, in that case said Wingnut Williams, perhaps Winnie should take Peter Marais and Boesak with her and join in the action.

No, remarked Harold Hardekop, I can't see Winnie sacrificing her life; she will put on a big show with television cameras, fancy wig and all. Mientjie Boep-pens had it all worked out: there would be several top-class toi-toi teams from the ANC Women's League, a big banner with "Beware - ANTHRAX!", and Winnie will carry a large glass flask with a big label "Anthrax". Then, when the moment arrives, Peter Marais will march toward the American Tank, hold the banner up high and Winnie beside him with the anthrax flask in front of her.

Well, we all know how scared the Americans are of anthrax - a mention of the word creates panic and everybody runs. Well, when the tank crew see the banner and the flask, they will panic and abandon the tank and Winnie can claim victory - all on television.

Ja, said Clara, our Winnie is a person for the great occasion. On the other hand, suggested Wingnut, wouldn't the atmosphere be really perfect if Mangasutu Buthelezi went along with a Zulu warrior group, like the one that performs at a Springbok rugby match to terrorise the opponents.
And so the chatter continued...

Streetwalker

Magnificent Belmont House *continued*

Most ornate are fireplaces, of which two have marble mantelpieces. However, the original flooring in the entrance foyer was in poor condition and has been replaced with conservative white ceramic tiles in a black diamond pattern. To one side is a guest toilet and an adjacent study with a fireplace. Also with fireplaces are the dining room and drawing room. Separated by a folding room, these east-facing rooms run the full width of the building and are ideally suited to entertainment. Lastly, there is the large kitchen with an adjoining pantry and scullery.

The showpiece is a magnificent stairway, which leads to the upper floor. The main bedroom is so large, that it has two doors leading onto the partially glass-enclosed balcony. In the centre is a French window with spectacular views of the East Dockyard and False Bay. There is a fireplace, wash basin and generous cupboard space. In fact, two of the five bedrooms have a basin and three have fireplaces.

There are a number of outbuildings, includ-

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ing an old bomb-shelter and coal shed. However, the gem is the house itself. The South African Navy, Simon's Town Museum and Historical Society are therefore thanked for their kind input on its features and history.

Bevan Pank

Simon's Town Amenities Development Company (STADCO)

The inaugural meeting of the directors of STADCO was held on the 13th February at the STCA Meeting Room. The following office bearers were elected: Brian Puchert (Chairperson), Peter Fewell (Vice-Chairperson), Ian Allan (Treasurer), with the position of secretary being shared on a rotating basis amongst the directors until such time as a paid secretary can be employed

Banking arrangements were agreed on and auditors appointed. Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month. Representatives of the Simon's Town Business Association and Simon's Town Civic Association were asked to canvas their members to put forward proposals for community related projects.

As the company is still in the process of being registered, a full press release will be given once this has been completed.

Trish Inggs

Snoektown Calling Publications

Some of our residents may be receiving two copies of the magazine: one in the post office box and a second copy delivered to the street address.

Our publicity office (information tourist office) at Jubilee Square is experiencing strong demand for the publication - so if you have a spare copy it will be gladly received by our publicity office. This refers to current issues, not back numbers.

Editor

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Bluebottle Stings

For treating bluebottle stings, at least two traditional means - vinegar and methylated spirits - have been found to actually increase the number of activated stinging cells! Although the former is recommended for box jellyfish stings, those from bluebottles are best relieved with ice and cold water. Provided that the sting has not been pre-treated with meths, another effective remedy is "Stingose" aluminium sulphate spray. Should pain and itching persist, it can be relieved with a disposable ice pack, or an antihistamine local anaesthetic such as "Calasthetic Cream". Furthermore, swelling can be reduced with a hydrocortisone ointment. Of importance, any tentacle remnant should be lifted upwards rather than across the skin, and the wound must never be rubbed. In rare cases of excessive stinging or an allergic reaction, it is essential to get immediate medical assistance.

Children should be discouraged from bursting barefooted the float of a newly washed-up bluebottle. This is because the countless harpoon-like stinging "nematocysts" are highly stable and can fire while still damp. Each consists of a coiled, hollow thread filled with poison, that explodes from its cell capsule when the trigger hair is touched. Firings can achieve a velocity of two metres per second with an acceleration of 40,000 times gravity! Unfortunately, without bluebottles – turtles, plough snails and some other predators might not have survived. So let's keep our distance, but respect their importance in the food chain.

Bevan Pank, Science Writer

Test Firing Simon's Town

The SA Navy held test firing exercises 10 - 12 and 18 - 21 February in False Bay.

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Simon's Town Business Association Report

The Simon's Town Business Association held their first meeting of 2006 on Mon 27th February in the Review Function Room, Cafe Pescado. All present were warmly welcomed, especially new members (Anita McAdie of Anchorage Art & Crafts).

Sergeant Dunleavy Roberts (Snr) CPO, whose salary is funded entirely from SBA membership contributions) was highly commended for his quick action which led to the arrest of the murderer of Shannon Hansen. The SBA expressed their deepest sympathy to the Hansen family and their solidarity with them. This tragic event highlights our urgent need for extra law enforcement to supplement the overstretched resources of the SAP. All businesses in Simon's Town are urged to join their Association and to contribute to this worthwhile cause. A meeting was set up with Captain Du Plessis of the SAP to define the role of the CPO in relation to the Permanent Force.

The role of the Section 21 Company was discussed and the formation of a BID (Business Improvement District). High priority is the establishing of "paid parking" on Jubilee Square and the possible employment of a higher CPO.

The new parking bays in the Main Street for taxi Operators were poorly demarcated and Taxi Operators needed to be notified. Mrs Raffles objected to trees even as she felt it prevented neighbours from having easy access to the businesses.

The SBA has had several informal meetings with Captain Knox of the SAN to discuss their involvement with the upcoming Navy Festival. All businesses have been asked to enter into the festival spirit. During the evening from Thursday 29th to Saturday 2nd March, live jazz will be played in a huge marquee on Jubilee Square. Beer, wine and there will be wine tasting and food stalls.

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2007 promises to be a very busy year, and a SSA Year Planner will be published shortly. The meeting adjourned at 21h30. The next meeting will be Monday, 12th March at the same venue at 18h15 for 18h30. Claire Ryan of Gold Fossil was thanked for her generous hospitality.

Trish Inggs

Snoektown Calling Back Numbers

Back numbers are obtainable from Peter or Mike at R3 per copy, on 786 1381. Sales proceeds go to a worthy welfare cause.

Simon's Town Civic Association

On Monday 19th February the STCA executive committee met to resume its activities after the festive season. These present all looked bright and cheerful, and eager to take up their responsibilities. The Publicity Association was applauded for its efforts and we welcomed Commander Jake Theunissen of the Navy. He outlined the Navy's Programme for the next month, and it sounds exciting.

On the 16th March there will be a Naval Ball on the Outeniqua. These have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed in the past and there is no reason why this Ball should not be a great success. Tickets are R350 per couple and are available from the Publicity Office and from the Navy's Office in Court Road.

On 18th March we can all go celebrating for the Dry-dock Concert at 19h00. Remember

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Then from the 20th to the 22nd March we have the Navy Festival which runs until 18:00 on those three days to be followed by entertainment on Jubilee Square organized by the Business Association. Likely events are a Jazz concert on Thursday evening, Oompah music on Friday evening and Live Music on Saturday evening. There will be food stalls; a coffee stand and the entertainment will be contained within a marquee. There will be a charge for entering the marquee. Details will be thrashed out and an official announcement will be made.

Less exciting but no less important was the message from the Councillor. Once again we are threatened with the closure of some of the facilities provided by the City and the STCA will write to appropriate authorities in an effort to retain these functions for the residents of our area.

Problems have arisen where tenants of Municipal properties have instituted changes and altered buildings without approval. Is there anyone responsible for monitoring the use and maintenance of Municipal Properties? In the 'private sector' there have been several cases recently where property owners/occupiers have altered buildings, added to buildings and even changed the function of buildings without formal approval. However irksome the regulations may seem, there are good reasons why unauthorised changes should not be permitted.

The hardy perennial of bus parking has been resolved - except that the solution is not understood. The red line at the kerb near the West Dockyard gates is intended to stop private motorists from parking there. These spaces are reserved for tour buses but the delay in erecting signs to explain this has led to confusion. Let us hope that the new signs will clarify this.

The New Year's Eve Party was a resound-

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ing success and the charities that will benefit, must be very happy with the result of their efforts. What has become clear is that the Party has become so big that some limit on the numbers who attend will have to be established and it may be necessary to appoint a Manager to organize the Party on a more professional and full-time basis. In the meantime, please collect 2-litre cool drink bottles to be used as candle holders at this year's party. Fran is desperate.

The selection of Simon's Town's Citizen of the Year was discussed and a unanimous decision made - the result will be announced at the meeting on 27th February.

To ensure that the Executive committee has the greatest possible range of names from which to choose: Please nominate your candidate formally, with a complete but succinct motivation for your nomination. Start Now! Manu Choudree, speaking on behalf of Safety and Security, pointed out that there has been an increase in the number of bag-snatchings reported and that ATM theft/fraud is still a problem. One group of ATM thieves was apprehended in Fish Hoek after an urgent call to the ECC (Emergency Call Centre) mobilised everyone except the Fish Hoek lifesavers. Remember the ECC number: 021-782 0144.

The success of the action against the commuter rail system in respect of their responsibility for ensuring the safety of passengers was applauded and Joe Fylinck and the Van Minnen family are to be congratulated on behalf of all of us on their perseverance.

The establishment of STADCO is a fait accompli. The Directors met on Thursday (13th February) for the first time. You will be able to learn more about STADCO at the General Meeting on 27th February.

The vexed question of illegal or unacceptable signage continues to be a thorn in our

HEATHER LUNDERSTEDT ESTATES cc

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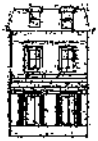

THE AGENCY WITH THE "DIFFERENT" APPROACH

[illegible]. There are so many signs that are illegal that it difficult to know where to start. It really would make our town a better and more attractive place if everyone examined their own signs, checked the regulations and modified the offending signs accordingly.

The celebration of Wetlands Day at the Glendaint Vlei was successful. Many attended and were rewarded for the Legendance by interesting talks and displays - exceptional were the Lanner Falcon and Cape Black Eagle.
To conclude on a cheerful note: The treasurer reported that the STCA is still in robust financial health.

However, you are reminded that the annual subscription for 2003 became due on the 1st January. Kindly use the form sent out with the December Newsletter. Also please take the opportunity as a paid up member for 2002 of obtaining free membership of the Simon's Town Amenities Development Company (STADCO). Again please complete and return the form provided.

John Morris - Representing Simon's Town's Ratepayers & Residents and Economic, Security, Cultural, Recreational, Naval, Welfare and Environmental organisations

May I Prick your Conscience?

An open letter to all who read, enjoy, and appreciate being kept informed of all things relating to Simon's Town by our unique "Snooktown Calling".
"Snooktown Calling" has been part of our lives for 6 years and drops into our letter boxes on a regular basis just as the local "newspapers" do. There is however a big difference, "Snooktown Calling" is our own, dealing with happenings past and present in our little town.
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ers and most important of all, pays for it month after month with very minimal financial support from the community it serves. Even the lovely drawings on the cover are done by Dr Loxton's wife who frequently sponsors an edition financially.
Come on Simonstonians, show your support and appreciation by making even the smallest financial contribution to ensure that we continue to be kept up to date.

From a supporter

Editor's note: *This appeal is entirely unsolicited and was written by a most generous and loyal support, whose contribution makes a very welcome dent in our monthly shortfall (under-recovery) of R8000.*

Governor's Cup 2002 Yacht Race

"A tiny island in the Atlantic Ocean - somewhere near the Antarctic isn't it?" is probably as much as most people know about the island of St Helena. A few more may recall that it had some connection with Napoleon, some may even know that he died there.

First discovered in 1502, 15 years after Bartholomeu Dias rounded the Cape , St Helena is in fact a tropical island lying 16 deg south and 6 deg west and some 1700 miles from Cape Town. The nearest land is the island of Ascension approximately 1100 km north west. Being "out there", it is no surprise that it is claimed to be the safest place on earth. With no airport, the only regular means of access is via the RMS (Royal Mail Ship) St Helena, said to be the last dedicated mail ship in the world.

In 1993 Capt Dave Roberts, one of the masters of the St Helena, was watching the start of the Cape to Rio yacht race in Table Bay when the thought occurred that a similar race to St Helena might be one way of

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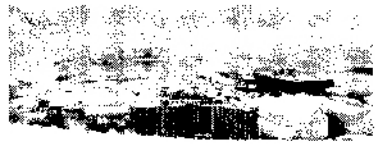

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putting the island on the tourism map. The downwind (ie the wind is mostly from the back) sailing conditions are appealing and the distance is that much shorter than to Rio. The main question is "how to get back?". Roberts came up with the idea to hoist the yachts onto the St Helena and transport them and their crews back to Cape Town in comfort. With the Governor of the island donating a magnificent cut-glass appropriately-named "Governor's Cup" the race was born.

The 2002 race coincided with the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the island. Organised by the False Bay Yacht Club and sponsored by Isle of Man-based Monarch Assurance, the 2002 race started on Saturday 30th November in Table Bay - most of the fleet having competed the previous weekend in the "Bay-to-Bay" feeder race from Simon's Bay to Table Bay together with a number of yachts not participating in the main race. Run in a pursuit format in which the slower boats started first with the handicapper hoping that all entrants would cross the finishing line together, the smallest yacht in the race, "Yemanj" skippered by Martin Mills of Scarborough was pipped to the post by the much larger and faster Salamander (Paul Dennett of Fish Hoek) who finished 1 minute ahead. (Reports have it that the handicapper was well pleased with his day's work!

If one minute was close for the "Bay-to-Bay" was close, the Governor's Cup finish was even closer if the time and distance are taken into account. After racing for twelve days during which they led the race on handicap for the first seven days the Miura-class yacht "Pintado" skippered by Petty Officer Richard Mosely of the Defence Yacht Club in Simon's Town had the frustration of having the wind die in the last few days. This allowed the faster and earlier-finishing "Our Diane Monarch Assurance" skippered by brother and sister Rian and Terry Leisegang from False Bay Yacht Club (with a little help from Dad Billy, Geoff (Goofy) Alexander and three "Saints" (as the islanders are called), Raymond Young, David Williams and Nola Henry) to win by a minuscule 8 minutes on corrected time. "Pintado" was second but had the consolation of winning the cruising yacht class from "SA Eagle Paragon" (False Bay Yacht Club) skippered by 69 year old Peter Martin, who was back for his second attempt at the race. The Leisegangs also won the Ambrose Family Participation Trophy for the top family-crewed yacht.

Line honours went to Cape Town-based "Beluga Monarch Assurance" with five saints and one crew from Tristan da Cunha on board and sailing under the St Helenian flag.

SAS OUTENIQUA Trip to St Helena 5 to 23 December 02

The SA Navy does not only visit other countries to establish and maintain goodwill and friendship ties between South Africa and that country. It also uses the trips to foreign ports to do Astro Navigation training for junior officers as well as various other types of training that sea going officers and noncommissioned officers require.

The engine problems that the SAS OUTENIQUA experienced on the trip to St Helena and back to Simon's Town were according to the mechanical officer of the ship, Commander (Cdr) Steward Waters, a total fluke. He said that the equipment that broke down was in the middle of their maintenance cycle. The turbo blower for example has an expectancy life cycle of 8 000 hours between maintenance periods. On this occasion it broke down after only 4 000 hours. He said that in accordance with the "bath tub" graph for maintenance on these types of engines there is a possibility, although very small, that some of the equipment can break down. It is however, the exception rather than the rule.

No one can foresee this anomaly and it is therefore clearly not because of mismanage-

ment or poor maintenance that the problems occurred, but rather because the Navy is forced to use this type of ship for roles which it was not designed for. Although the mechanical failures and circumstances posed serious challenges, the ship's company was quite capable of carrying on with their daily tasks as usual.

It must be mentioned that Cdr Waters and his engineering department did a sterling job. They managed to do the repairs in very difficult conditions and the ship made good speed back to Simon's Town even though it only could use 50% of its power. Two members that should receive special mention are Chief Petty Officer E. Lategan and Chief Petty Officer S. Hope who worked very long hours to locate the problems and check the rest of the engine.

The Engineering department consists of 35 members, of which only half are qualified at this stage. The youngsters are being trained and they also gain valuable experience on these types of deployments. It is apparent that integration of other races is well established on the SAS OUTENIQUA and that the different races and sexes work together as one team. To quote Rear Admiral (Junior Grade) Koos Louw who says, "the Navy is like a packet of 'Liquorice Allsorts' with all colours and shapes which makes it an interesting and very palatable packet of sweets"

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Shipping Line Orders New Vessels

Shipping line Safmarine has ordered three new container vessels specifically designed for trade at West African ports.
"The vessels will be used for our Europe-West Africa route, one of the company's main trading routes," says Safmarine media manager Richard Warnes.

Being built by Volkswerft, an AP Moller/ Maersk group shipyard, in Stralsund, in Germany, the ships will have dimensions suited to a number of important ports in West Africa, where length and draught restrictions are applicable.

"The vessels, which will be relatively wide, short and shallow, will be able to negotiate the river conditions found in many ports in Africa" explains Warnes.
"They will also have cranes on board to load and offload their own containers should any port not have this infrastructure," he says.

The versatile ships are due to be delivered during the second half of 2004.

They will be geared with about 2100 TEU capacity and will be equipped with reefer plugs to power refrigerated containers that transport temperature sensitive cargo.

The vessels are expected to transport goods such as machinery, motor vehicles, industrial chemicals, white goods and basic foodstuffs, including sugar, flour and vegetable oil, south from Europe to West Africa, and on their return journey cargo is expected to include commodities such as cocoa and coffee beans and cotton.

"Although the management contract for the three ships has not been finalised yet, most of our owned container ships are managed and crewed by mainly South Africans," says Warnes.

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"We are keen to do this in order to support the new South African Maritime Training Academy (Samtra), a joint venture between the Danish AP Moller Foundation and Safmarine in South Africa," he says.
The two-storey, 2000m² building being constructed on a section of the grounds of Simon's Town High School by local contractors at a cost of about R7 million, is almost complete.

State-of-the-art computerised ships' engine and navigation room simulation equipment, to the value of a further estimated R18 million, will be sourced from the Danish Maritime Institute (DMI).

The academy will provide skills training for the broader South Africa maritime sector, including the merchant marine, harbour craft, the fishing industry and the military, leading to enhanced career opportunities for men and women from all cultural backgrounds.

The academy's training facilities will also be accessible to seafarers from other maritime nations in Southern Africa and further afield, in line with the South African government's Development initiative.

Jill Stanford
Engineering News Contributing Editor
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Editor's Note: *In a subsequent issue a comprehensive report on the Maritime Academy will be published - research is in progress.*

Commodore Paul Dryden Dymond - part 2

Note: In part 1 of this series the name of the author was misspelt, and should have been Grose. We apologise.
(Excerpts from the biography by Vice Adm Sir Alan Grose KBE)

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The South African Government had decided to amalgamate the SDF and the RNVR (SA) with a view to establishing a permanent navy after the war. Hence, from 1 August 1942, personnel from the two organisations were combined to form the South African Naval Forces, and RPDD exchanged the wavy stripes on his uniform for the straight lace of the SANF.

After enjoying some home leave in Cape Town he was appointed in command of HMSAS *Turffontein*, one of two large whale catchers which had recently undergone conversion for anti-submarine duties and which was due to commission in mid-August. However, before he could take up this command RPDD was appointed as the senior serving member of an SANF contingent which was to travel to the US to take delivery of 5 new minesweepers for the SANF. Having been promoted to Lt Commander a few days earlier, RPDD and his party sailed for the UK from Cape Town in a former Belgian cross-channel ferry *Prince Baudouin* on 29 October 1942. After a slow 10-knot passage and refuelling stops at Walvis Bay, Takoradi, Bathurst, Freetown and Las Palmas, the party was transferred to an RN destroyer off the North Coast of Ireland and taken to London derry, from where a few days later they went by sea to the Clyde, and to Liverpool by train.

In London, RPDD received his orders, returning to Liverpool where the party eventually embarked on to the Royal Mail Line freighter, *Deseado*. They arrived in New York just before Christmas and disembarked. Then came a 3-month delay: it was found that the British Yacht Minesweepers (BYM) which they were to have collected were considered to be totally unsuitable for South African waters. After 3 months of waiting, the contingent finally prepared to ferry a "flight" of 37 newly-built Landing Craft Infantry - LCL(I) - from the US to the Med, for delivery to the RN. At the end of March 1943 they

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sailed for Bermuda, en route to Gibraltar.

It was a formidable challenge to take these tiny craft 4000 miles across the Atlantic, at the time of the northern hemisphere spring equinox. The only escort the landing craft had was from Catalina flying boats, operating first from Bermuda and then Casablanca - during a month which saw some of the heaviest losses from enemy submarine action in the Battle of the Atlantic. But the small flotilla arrived at Gibraltar unscathed. Here the crews were complemented on their achievement by Rear Admiral Sir Philip Vian of HMS *Cossack*.

RPDD arrived back in Cape Town on 20 June 1943, just in time for the birth of his second child, Noel. He spent a few months in the SANF Headquarters in the Cape Town Docks as Staff Officer Anti-Submarine Flotilla, before returning to Durban to take up a new appointment as Senior Officer of No 4 Escort Group, in HMSAS *Oldberg*, one of 8 oil-fired anti-submarine vessels lent by the SANF to the Royal Navy for convoy escort duties between Durban and Kilindini, Mombasa.

The following year RPDD was required for an assignment much further afield. The British Government had offered to place 3 of the RN's Loch Class frigates at the permanent disposal of the SANF in South Africa waters. The first of these, HMS *Loch Boisdale*, renamed HMSAS *Good Hope*, was to be commanded by RPDD. By mid-September the crew of the *Good Hope* had gathered in Cape Town and left for the UK in the troopship *Andes*. On arrival in the UK RPDD underwent courses and prepared himself for his new command. The ship commissioned at Blyth, Northumberland on 9 November 1944. Three weeks later *Good Hope*, with RPDD and a ship's company of some 140, sailed for her work-up at Tobermory on the West Coast of Scotland. Work-up completed, *Good Hope* joined the 18th Escort Group (EG18) based at Greenock on the Clyde.

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The first ship was to escort a large convoy, MW *Island Monarch*, to Iceland in the midst of a terrific North Atlantic winter storm. This resulted, on the frigate's return to the Clyde, in her having to spend 2 weeks in a Glasgow dry dock for repairs to her buckled bottom plating and other storm damage. RPLD was hospitalised in Glasgow for treatment of a back injury. He was temporarily replaced by CO by Lt Cdr (later Cdr) DA Hall DSO BANF, who had arrived in the UK to commission the first Loch Class frigate to be put under the South African flag, the HMS/M *Natal*.

After a rapid recovery RPLD returned to his repaired ship and *Good Hope* rejoined EGTG under his command and resumed escort duties, mainly in the Irish Sea and in the English Channel between Portsmouth, Cherbourg and Le Havre. *Good Hope* became the only South African ship to qualify for the France and Germany Star or Clasp.

Good Hope and *Natal* returned to South Africa after Germany surrendered in May 1945. Each ship received a number of South African ex POWs, recently released from German camps. The two ships arrived in Cape Town on 20 June, to a great welcome of tugs, ships' sirens and a squadron of 'a Fleet Air Arm' attack fighters flying overhead, as the two frigates berthed in Duncan Dock. Every member of *Good Hope*'s company was presented with a leather wallet, embossed with the Province's coat-of-arms, to signify that the ship had been adopted by the Cape Province.

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Across the Hex and Into a Brave New World - part 3

Eastwards from the Hotel Florence were a small grocery store which smelled of onions and paraffin, and two Chinese shops that sold all manner of strange things, including lengths of sugarcane which people chewed, spitting out the fibre as they walked along the pavement. Beyond these shops was a large timber yard whose sawmills constantly filled the air with noise and aromatic sawdust. Beyond that, civilisation more or less petered out and veld began.

Going in the opposite direction past the hotel, the scene was quite different: a large Brook cafe, an ABC shoe store which stocked American footwear, a Fanny Farmer displaying mouth watering cream cakes - with real cream. And so on, until the intersection with Eloff Street, where the real bustle of the City began. That was as far as Mother ventured. Until she became more familiar with the streets (all laid out in a grid) and their odd names: Rissik, Raleigh, Bree, von Brandis, Banket, Harrison.

An imposing Castle Brewery archway straddled the street that went past the hotel; through this archway lumbered the days, drawn by pairs of wonderfully imposing horses, great dignified animals, heavy hooves half-covered by thick curtains of silky-looking white hair. I fell in love with them.

Within walking distance was the Johannesburg Public Library, a double-storeyed rickety building with wooden steps rising from the pavement. On payment of a deposit of 2/6, you were allowed to take out two books at a time at a rate of a tickey per book. I got through two on a daily basis and was eventually allowed three at a time, provided I only turned up twice a week. I don't know what led the Municipality to build and relocate to the Impressive Library opposite the Cenotaph - but it could have been the shaky state

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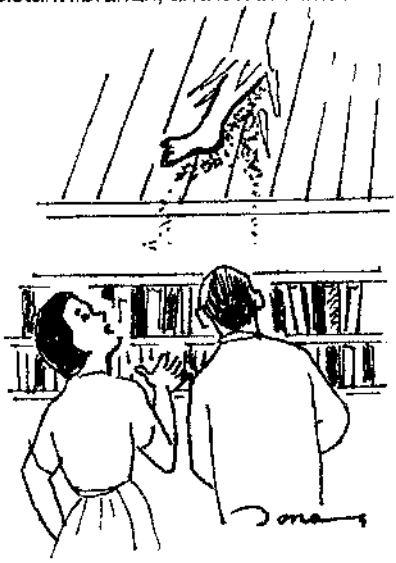
of the old model. Subscribers browsing on the ground floor one day were astonished to see a foot and lower leg bursting through the wooden ceiling in a shower of dust and splinters. This limb belonged to Flossie, the assistant librarian, and it was rumoured that she and the chief librarian were wrestling at the time.



Another source of entertainment was the Astoria bioscope, near Joubert Park. On Friday evenings two hefty chuckers-out manned the entrance to the cinema, to keep order among the miners who'd come to visit the pubs and other places of amusement. At the Astoria patrons witnessed the first switch from sub-titles to sound. A great event for me was when Dad decided I needed exposure to Culture. A German film, "The Mystery of Life", was being screened, evenings only; Men Only on one night, Ladies Only the next. No children admitted. I was plastered with make-up, hair up in a bun and one of Mother's dresses hitched up over a belt, and was smuggled in through the manager's office.

This opus dealt - with Teutonic attention to fine detail - with life, from conception to birth, beginning with the insect world and culminating with human beings. I must have

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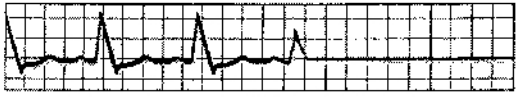

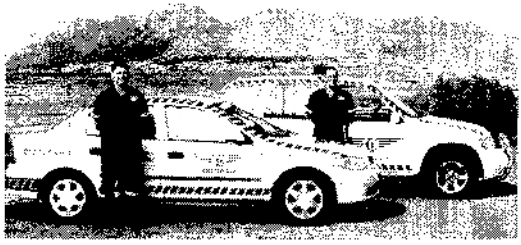

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CAPE MEDICAL RESPONSE

dozed off; my only recollection was a *close* close-up of a manna spider eating her mate - alive and wriggling.

Swartkop Alien Vegetation Eradicators (SAVE)

It may be of interest to residents in Murdoch Valley and Froggy Farm to learn that our hacking group, SAVE, although remaining extant for the time being, has gone into recess.

The main reason for this is that the last fire burnt most vegetation to ground level. The only visible aliens now are new major infestations of Port Jackson and Stinkbean, plus scattered plants of various species. SAVE has not the resources to handle these; Justin Buchmann of the CPNP was so advised by us in September last year when, with adequate labour, most of the plants could have been hand-pulled.

An underlying problem is the present lack of support from the community compared with the good turnout we used to get in the early nineties, when we had the resources to cope with similar conditions ourselves. Following the death of Hugh Taylor in 1999, I found myself to be the only active survivor of the original group; but, within the space of the next few months, was joined by Silke, Marian, Sheila and my wife Pam. We worked hard in anticipation of takeover by the CPNP. Our first encounter with CPNP's contracted labour force in our working area was a year later, in the shape of a group of unsupervised panga-wielding labourers doing more harm than good. The damaging work was stopped, and the CPNP was immediately advised of the situation, but our hopes of a CPNP takeover were now dashed.

It was necessary to go over the ground already worked by the labourers, to collect evidence of unsatisfactory work; many samples thereof were supplied to the CPNP's Boulders Office.

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We continued with our own programme of lifting and lopping myrtle, and after the rains of that year tackled the Port Jackson infestations whilst the ground was soft, to clear some 5000 seedlings up to the year end.

During this period we provided CPNP with quarterly Progress Reports, frequently including comment and advice suitable for labour training schedules.

Silke held the fort when Pam and I were overseas for three months at the end of 2001. We returned in February last year to find her unwell and shouldering additional family commitments, but she had done well for SAVE during our absence. Now recovered, but still with other commitments, she is unable to turn out again at present, but hopes to 'turn her face to the mountain' again some time in the future.

My own incapacity from damaged shoulder muscles has kept me off the mountain for almost a year, but encouraged by slowly returning strength and mobility, I hope to be back in harness soon.

It will be realised from the foregoing that we are not equipped at present to provide assistance on the mountain in a meaningful way, and that additional hands will have to be available to SAVE if it is to remain a force for conservation in the future.

With SAVE in recess I am hopeful that CPNP will resume an active role in the sensitive control of alien vegetation on Swartkop's slopes above our suburbs, and that support for a rejuvenated SAVE will emerge from a new generation of concerned residents working in conjunction with CPNP.

We do not know what the mountain will have in store for us after the winter rains, or whether CPNP will maintain a presence, but we would like to add more names and telephone numbers to our list of buckers, so that we may be prepared. If you are interested in working for your mountain, phone

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John Hale

Aliens to be cleared from Simons Town - Hostile or Not

The risk of uncontrolled fire threatening properties close to the mountains along the False Bay coast has been reduced thanks to the work conducted by teams of workers clearing alien vegetation from the area.

And I am happy to report clearing projects are currently in progress or due to start in the Simon's Town area and including Da Gama Park and Glendalm.

The work is being done under the auspices of the *Sautern / Cape Aqua Ukuruka: Operation Firestop Campaign*, a public private partnership formed after the fires of January 2000 to reduce the risk of fire by clearing the "urban fringe" of invasive alien vegetation which increases the intensity of fire.

The Urban Fringe" is an imaginary boundary line around The Cape Peninsula that separates urban areas from tyrrhos of the mountain chain. Some of this land is privately owned, some is owned by the city and a portion is owned by the state is managed by the Cape Peninsula National Parks.

The January 2000 fires along the Table Mountain chain threatened lives and property, and wrought considerable damage to the ecosystem. Much of the intensity and severity of the fires can be attributed to the density of alien vegetation.

Plants, which come from other countries such as Port Jackson (Acacia saligna), Rooikrans (Acacia cyclops) and Black Wattle (Acacia mearnsii) burn at a faster rate and higher intensity than our indigenous fynbos. Fires in which these plants burn can be so severe and intense that they can change the soil structure. This impacts negatively on the growth of the natural fynbos.

It also means that if the fynbos can not grow the risk of land and mudslides during the rainy season is increased. Put from being harmful, fire and smoke encourage the growth of certain plants found in fynbos. The Cape Peninsula has one of the world's most unique floral kingdoms supporting the growth of over 88 000 different plants. Apart from being a fire hazard, alien vegetation threatens the survival of many of these plants.

The Simon's Town area has been marked as one of the "fire hazard" areas of the Peninsula due to the infestation of alien vegetation in the region and has therefore been targeted by Ukuruka as a priority region for alien vegetation clearing.

By clearing the urban fringe of alien vegetation, the risk of uncontrolled fire is reduced.

This does not mean a "xenophobic" attack of all alien vegetation. A balanced approached will be taken that deals with invasive alien plants that cause problematic invasion.

Gums and other invasive alien vegetation will be cleared from designated areas above the Naval base and around Glencairn Quarry.

It is important to know that not all alien vegetation are invasive and are a fire hazard.

Ask yourself what do you want to show your children in 40 years time, a picture of an extinct pelargonium in full bloom, along the mountains of Simon's Town, a dusty replica of a pelargonium behind a glass panel in a museum or a dull Port Jackson in full bloom.

Why don't you join us in taking ownership of our heritage and start hacking with one

of the many local friends groups in your area? And please help reduce the risk of fire by being extra careful when braaing in the open and if you smoke, please make sure cigarette butts are put out.

For more information please contact;
Stiaan Marais, Ukuvuka Extension Officer – Alien Clearing
Telephone: 021 762 7474
E-mail: stiaan@ukuvuka.org.za
Web: http://www.ukuvuka.org.za

Stiaan Marais

Property Watch No. 46

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 45.
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 45.
1.3 Erf No 4495: Cairnside: Application to subdivide into portions. No change from Report No 45.
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 45.
1.5 Erf No 2212 Glencairn Heights: Application for Bed & Breakfast establishment. No change from Report No 45.
1.6 Erf No 2464 Forest Hill: Application for subdivision into two parts. No change from Report No 45.
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 45.
1.8 Erf No 1400 Simon's Town (Kleintuin 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 45.
1.9 Erf No 4034 Simon's Town: Application for Land Use Departure from single residential to allow conversion to Bed & Breakfast. No change from Report No 45. Application in progress.
1.10 Erf 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 45 but following discussions with the owners the STCA has withdrawn its objections to this proposal. Unfortunately this business has now been closed.
1.11 Erf No 1239 (CNR FOREST HILL ROAD) Application for re-zoning and possible removal of restrictions. No change from Report No 45.
1.12 Erf No 3636 Simon's Town (Hope Street/Cardiff Road) Application to adjust the boundaries of Erf No 771 (the abutting erf 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 45.
1.13 Erf No 3042 Simon's Town (Clan Stewart Street, Glencairn Heights): Earlier sub-division 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 312sqm and 459sqm respectively. Report in progress. No change from Report No 45.
1.14 Erf No 4004 Simon's Town (Victory Close/Way) Application for Land Use Departure from single residential to Bed & Breakfast. Report in progress. No change from

Report No 45.
1.15 Erf No 560 (Simon's Town Station) Application for rezoning, departure and subdivision. Further information awaited. No change from Report No 45.
1.16 Erf No 4979 (Glen Street, Glencairn) Application for rezoning of public unmade street between Glen Street and Erven 250 & 345 from undetermined use zone to residential use. Now being advertised. No change from Report No 45.
1.17 Erf No 1191: Application for subdivision. Further information required. No change from Report No 45.
1.18 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. 45.
1.19 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 45.
1.20 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.
1.21 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 No 45.
1.22 Erf 1368 Simon's Town: (Jan Smuts Ave. Seaforth) Application for height departure. We have no objections to this proposal No change from Report No 45.
1.23 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 No 45.
1.24 Erf No 3779 Simon's Town (Hugo Biermann Bldg Naval Base): Application for temporary land use departure: installation of cellular communication antennae at top of

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Lymphatic drainage (full body, gentle massage, using oil) for stimulating lymphatic flow to improve circulation and reduce fluid retention.

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

These therapies are provided daily (except Sunday) by Clare Roy, registered with Allied Health Professions Council of SA, reg no: A5098

Contact Clare on:

021 781 0942 or 083 418 4147

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 No 45.
1.25 Erf No 2723 Simon's Town - (Runciman Drive/Thomas St) Proposal to subdivide Erf into five portions ranging in size from 630m to 1620 msq. The STCA has no objection to this proposal. No change from Report No 45.
1.26 Erven 941 & 3015 (Goede Gift Rd, 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 development on Erf 3477. The STCA has no objection to this proposal.
1.27 Erven Nos 829 & 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 45.
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 45.
2.3 Consolidated and Amended Town Planning and Zoning Scheme Regulations for Simon's Town and Fish Hoek: No change from Report No 45.
2.4 Proposed Lease of portions of public street abutting Erven Nos 1731 and 1734 (Main Road Murdock Valley, Simon's Town) Extent 378 sqm each. Proposed usage Gardening, security and access purposes. Lease period 5 years. No change from Report No 45.
2.5 Proposed Lease of portion of City Land abutting Erf No 2873 (Off Mariners Close, Simon'sTown): Extent approx 203 sqm. Proposed usage clearing of alien vegetation and replacing with indigenous plants. Lease

period 10 years @ R75 pa plus rates and annual increases.

Eve Leggatt

Friends of Simon's Town Public Library

We are pleased to welcome the undermentioned patrons who have joined the ranks of the Friends: *Mr and Mrs Brinkcate, Nigel and Brenda Howlett, Sandra Johnston, Sean Lit.* Also *Ms L Mansell,* who immediately made a cash donation to the Friends, for which many thanks.

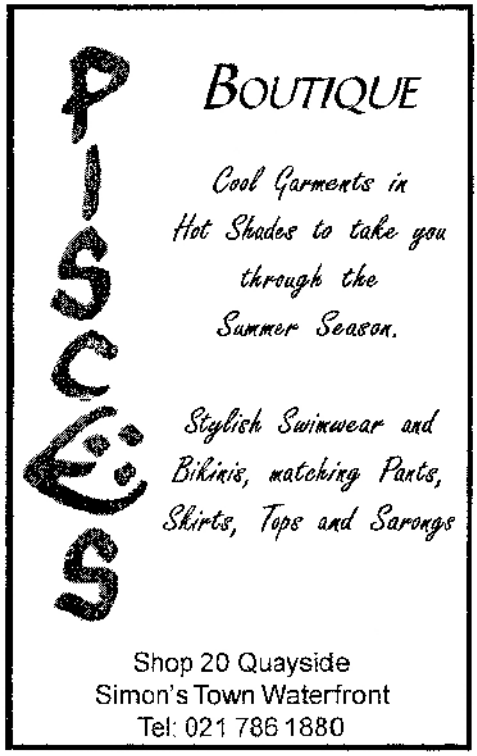
For the record, from August 2002 to February 2003 we have gained 25 new members, which is most gratifying. Welcome and thank you for joining us. Please remember that contrary to the impression held by some Patrons that the R5 is a once-off payment, this is not so. Subscriptions are renewable in August of each year after our AGM.

We wish to express our grateful thanks to Mrs Reed for her extremely generous donation of books for our book sales, and also to Mr Tony de Villiers (a newcomer from Zimbabwe) for his donation of books. At one stage we were becoming quite despondent with the "drying up" of our main source of income, but it would appear that things are looking up. David Niven said "Bring on the Horses" but we say "Bring on the Books"! All donations will be collected from your premises. Call Bobby on 786-3690.

The new quarter's books, audios and videos have been purchased for the Library. Authors such as Sarah Harrison, Catherine Cookson, Salmon Rushdie were chosen. Audios include Clare Francis, Judith Lennox, Alexander Kent and Janet Evanovich. Included in the non-fiction section is a lovely book by Letty Oates titled "Step-by-Step Decoupage" which will be of interest to the handcraft enthusiasts.

Music at St Francis

The series of lunchtime organ recitals on the first Friday of each month is underway starting with Alan Clapp on **Friday 07 March** at 13:10. The following have been arranged: **April 04** - Grant Braslar, Assistant Organist, St George's Cathedral. **May 02** - Mario Nel, Lecturer in Organ Studies, University of Stellenbosch. **June 06** - Colin Howard, Recently returned from the UK. We also have in the pipeline several concerts, the dates of which are still to be arranged. St. Cyprian's School Chamber Choir - Conductor: Grant Braslar. The Early Music Ensemble (who delighted audiences at the UCT Summer School). On **August 02** the Cape Town Society of Church Musicians (under the auspices of the U.K. based Royal School of Church Music) is organising a one-day church-choir workshop culminating in a combined choral concert or service. All choirs are very welcome. Also in August, to



mark the retirement of our Vicar Reverend Henry Frieslaar, Dr Barry Smith and the St George's Singers will hopefully perform the mass by Dr Steven van der Merwe. Our choir has been invited to sing in St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Cape Town in October and in the Simon's Town Dutch Reformed Church on **November 09.**
Do come along and support the music in our beautiful surroundings. Enquiries to Juliet Bass at telephone 021 786 2362.

Uncompetitive Prices

In the latest "Mr Delivery" booklet for our region, one restaurant advertises Lobster Thermidor for as much as R385,00! Others also list meals that only the wealthy and foreign tourists can afford. Most of us - and particularly pensioners - are therefore obliged to dine out elsewhere. Should visitors discover a large difference in price for the same meal, the word could get around back home. This also applies to shops and self-catering accommodation. Although other than certain businesses get no direct benefit from tourism, our country obviously needs the foreign exchange. So surely it makes sense not to go overboard on prices and risk putting visitors off?

Bevan Pank

Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina

Six Cello Concert
Simon's Town Pro Musica Divina presents ***I Grandi Violoncellisti*** at a concert in the **Simon's Town Methodist Church on Sunday, 16 March at 7.30pm**. This group con-

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sists of Cape Town's most prominent cellist playing together as a sextet. They have performed to great acclaim in and around Cape Town and also received a standing ovation at the Graham's Town Festival in 2002. ***I Grandi Violoncellisti*** is led by well-known concert cellist Anmari van der Westhuizen and the rest of the group consists of the doyenne of South African cellists, Marian Lewin; well-known chamber musician and Fish Hoek personality Barbara Kennedy; as well as Cheryl de Havilland; Fiona Grayer and Eddie McLean. The concert will include music ranging from the sublime Adagio by Albinoni (a religious experience in itself), to a jazzy Bossa Nova that will have your feet tapping. Come and enjoy a wonderful evening of sublime music – if you have not heard 6 cellos playing together, you have not lived yet! Tickets, R35, may be obtained from Simon's Town Pharmacy or at the door - book early, since seating is limited, 786-2133. Greetings!

Steven van der Merwe

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

MARCH 2003

February has been an auspicious month for Station 10 members. As was mentioned last month in this column the new 5.5 metre semi rigid rescue craft would be launched at the Patti Price Boathouse at Cole Point on the 1st of February.

The ceremony took place on a day that was warm and sunny and was attended by many distinguished guests from the Sea Rescue community, the Simon's Town community and sponsors. The boathouse looked a picture and was a tribute to those who had worked so hard and spent so much time to make it so. Guests were welcomed by M.C., Station Operations Officer Mr. Erwin Selk. The assembly was addressed by Mr. Gerry Keeling of the International Lifeboat Federation who spoke about the importance of maintaining a sea rescue capability and of

Ever wondered why your "get up an go" got up and left?

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We are subjected daily to Emotional, Mechanical and even Chemical Stress. When the stress reaches overload, it is stored in the muscular structures of the body. This may result in **pain**, **stiffness** or **numbness** and postural distortions. For example, body stress in the neck may affect the shoulders, arms, hands and head. Pressure in the lower back may transfer tension to the whole back, and may affect the hips, legs, feet and abdomen.

We all need to take responsibility for our health. Everyone can benefit from this **natural** and safe technique which **unlocks tension** and restores **self-healing.**

BODY STRESS RELEASE

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South Africa's links with the International Federation. He also wished the Station well with it's endeavors and in the operation of the new craft. Station Commander Dave Roberts thanked Mr. Keeling for his address and outlined the wonderful support that the Beaumont family had given to Station 10 over the years. He also thanked all the sponsors that had helped to make the day a success and introduced Mr. Mike Bosazza of Syfrets Trust who had arranged the main sponsorship for the rescue craft. Mr. Bosazza outlined the operation of the Joan St Ledger Trust in it's support of good causes and how it came to be the main sponsor of this new craft. He also wished the Station well in the operation of the new craft. Padre Ralph Thornley, from the S. A. Navy, said prayers in blessing of the new boat and upon all those who would operate the vessel. Mrs. Roz Radford, sister of Vivian Beaumont and the late Eddie Beaumont's Aunt and God Mother, then read an e-mail from her sister in Australia who sent her special blessing for the occasion. Mrs. Radford then named the boat " Eddie Beaumont II " and launched it in the traditional manner. The boat was then run down the slip and the assembled guests watched as it was sailed in a lap of honour by a crew made up of Louis Duimelaar, Coxswain, Tanya Hair and Jacky Meikle- John. Guests and Station Crew then enjoyëd a stunning array of snacks and refreshment in honour of the occasion.

The only serious callout occurred on Sunday the 16th when at 10:05 a call was received from Station Commander Dave Roberts to assist the fishing vessel "Lady Ace" who was towing a capsized ski-boat and had the three crew members on board. The vessel "Gard Father" had capsized at 09:30 off Seal Island the crew of three were picked up by the "Lady Ace". "Spirit of Freemasonry" was launched at 10:18, with Darren Zimmerman as coxswain, and arrived at "Lady Ace" at 10:40 and took over the tow and the crew members. At about 14:00 the vessel was brought to 10 Base slipway where she was righted and recovered on her trailer.

An Air/ Sea exercise took place on Saterday 22 February at Station 8 Hout Bay where a S.A.A.F. rescue helicopter carried out basic hoisting excercises from ground to helicopter and vice-versa. Boats crews from Hout Bay, Bakoven andKommetjie took part. Station 10 personnel Dave Roberts, Lee Adcock and Paul Alexander were members of the helicopter rescue crew.

On Sunday 23 February a joint exercise took place off Seal Island in False Bay where Rescue 9 from Gordon's Bay and Rescue 10 practiced towing in reasonably heavy seas of state 3to 4 and a strong surface wind . Boats crew were changed around during the exercise. It was a good opportunity for the crews to get to know each other as well as the capabilities of their respective boats. March is going to be a busy month for all concerned in the Sea Rescue fraternity. Station10 will start the month assisting in the annual Fish Hoek Hoby Club Cape Point Challenge race which takes place on Saterday the 1st of March where boats will race from Fish Hoek to Cape Point and back. During the race a carnival of surf and beach events will take place at the Club. Station 10 will be the beneficiaries of this event.

On March the 21st the International Lifeboat Conference will be held in Cape Town for the first time. Delegates from Sea Rescue Agencies all over the world will be attending this event. Station 10's "Spirit of Freemasonry" will be sailed to Cape Town for the duration of the conference where it will be on show with other S.A. rescue craft.

During February the organizers of the New Years Eve Party that is held annually presented various bodies in Simon's Town with cheques for their participation and or assistance. Station 10 crew members stood by at the New Years Party to render medical assistance if required. Station Commander Dave Roberts was presented with a cheque to the value of R7000.00 for the Station's participation. This is a wonderful supportive gesture and is highly appreciated by all con-

demed a Station. Oh! That is all for now. Ship boating.

Yours ever, Don Dolley

Simon's Town New Year's Eve Function Jubilee Square 31 Dec 2002

As a function held in the Sailors and Soldiers' Rest Room in Simon's Town, on Wednesday 12 February, Captain Terry Kersten, Chairman of the 2002 committee thanked his committee and all those who assisted in one way or another towards the success of the evening. He also announced that the same five organisations would be convening within a few days to elect the 2003 committee.

Last year the FUN spent R46 264.00 on the construction of a portable stage as well as trestle tables. The Trustees of this fund are Cllr Nicki Heidemess, the Chairman of the Simon's Town Civic Association and the Chairman of the Publicity Association.

In thanking all concerned, Cllr Heidemess mentioned in particular the South African Police Simon's Town who so efficiently handled the security as well as Traffic Officers Erick Sturtz and Hamlin van der Berg who had volunteered their services for the evening. She also thanked ABSA Bank for waiving the bank charges on the Party's Account.

Cllr Heidemess said that Simon's Town's New Year's Eve Party has proved to be a great success and has a good reputation. The 2003 Committee will have to ensure that the problems encountered at the last party are addressed and that its reputation is maintained.

Incoming Statement overleaf

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Simon's Town New Year Party 2002/3

Income		
Ticket and bar sales		226 753
Interest		2145
Hire of stalls		300
		228 198
Less Expenditure		
Bar costs	29 500	
Disco	12 500	
Security	7 000	
Cleaners	4 284	
Toilets	3 779	
Traffic control and car guards	5 620	
General and distribution expenses	5 195	
Printing of tickets	1 420	67 248
		160 950
Add opening bank balance		985
Surplus for distribution		161 935

DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS		
Simon's Town Millennium Fund for capital projects	53 750	
Simon's Town Museum for Development Fund	10 750	
Simon's Town Civic Association for community projects	10 750	
Simon's Town Publicity Association for brochures and display material	10 750	
Simon's Town Methodist Church for church-run Alcoholics Victorious Home	10 750	
Simon's Town Catholic Church for church-run Holy Cross orphanage	10 750	
Simon's Town School Bursary Fund	10 000	
NSRI Station 19	7 000	
Fish Hoek Assoc for Welfare of the Elderly	5 000	
False Bay Hospital	5 000	
Simon's Town Community Police Forum	4 000	
Happy Valley Home	4 000	
Red Hill Pre-Primary School	4 000	
St Luke's Hospice	3 000	
Snoektown Calling	2 500	
Volunteer Ambulance Service	2 500	
Simon's Town Community Police Officer	2 000	
The Girl Guide Assoc W Cape (Simon's Town)	1 000	
Fish Hoek Home Nursing Service	1 000	
Simon's Town Community School	1 000	
Anchor Away Village False Bay	1 000	
Bobby on the Beat	750	161 250
Balance at Bank		685

The remaining third share remains in the Millennium Fund to be utilised for the benefit of the Town.

Simon's Town Community Police Forum

At our open meeting on 24 February it was gratifying to find that a few more Simon's Town residents attended. We hope you learned a lot from this public meeting and would really like to see you all again. Please note our next **public meeting** will be on **31March at 5pm** at the Lord Nelson Inn.

New Police Recruits: Ten new police recruits who have joined the Simon's Town Police Service and will be introduced to the people of Simon's Town at our next public meeting. These gentlemen travel in from the Northern suburbs, Kayelitsha, Langa, etc, each day for duty and as their salary is at this stage very small, travelling costs are horrendous. Do you have accommodation for one of them? A built in security system for your "lock up and leave".

Victim Comfort Room: So far we have been given a bed, mattress, bed linen, side tables, 2 bedside lamps, chest of drawers, wooden kist for children's toys and books on loan from the library service, as well as 2 armchairs and some louvre doors to make into screens for privacy. An offer has also been received for a donation of soft toys so we are coming along famously. Preparations are being made to clean the room, repair and repaint it in cheerful colours and add those little touches to make the centre warm and welcoming. Our thanks to those generous people who have donated the above items. Red tape still hounds the establishment of this venue but hopefully we can overcome this in the best interests of our community.

Vagrants: There has been a noticable increase in vagrants on our streets and these people are becoming threatening and abusive to visitors. PLEASE COMPLAIN ABOUT ANY THREATENING, ABUSIVE OR UNSOCIABLE BEHAVIOUR. Only if you complain can the SAP take action!

ATM Fraud: This is still rife in our area. Last weekend another tourist was robbed at the ATM. Fortunately with the co-operation of

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Navy Band Lunchtime Concerts
Static Displays
Foodstalls
Precision Drill
Tea Garden
Visit the Ships
Mast Display
Exhibition Hall
Beer Tent

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RIGHT OF ENTRY PARADE - 20 MARCH
11:30 in Simon's Town Main Road

NAVY FESTIVAL BALL - 15 MARCH
On Board SAS OUTENIQUA
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DRYDOCK CONCERT - 19 March at 19h30
Entrance is Free

FOR INFO : TEL (021) 787 3860

Manu Choudree, (Chulu) who happened to be passing by, the Simon's Town Police and the Fish Hoek Police, the criminals were caught as they entered Fish Hoek. With quick action, we can make a difference.

Tragedy in S/Town: Our sympathy and condolences to the Hooses family after the latest shooting of Zahrina, on their premises recently. Again with quick action the criminal was apprehended, but with vigilance and the reporting of this suspicious character who had been lurking around for days before, this tragedy might have been averted.

Merit Certificates: We would like to award Merit Certificates to members of the general public and our Police Service Officers who YOU feel deserve some recognition for service and going that "extra mile". Write your nominations on a piece of paper and put it in the little green basket at Heather Lunderstedt. Petates, 104 St George's St. next to pharmacy before **20 March.**

Heather Lunderstedt

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The Night Sky

MARCH 2003

In March the night sky contains the brilliant ribbon called the Milky Way with Auriga the Charioteer in the north followed by Gemini the Twins; Taurus the Bull; Orion the Hunter; Lepus the Hare; Canis Minor, Little Dog on the west of the Milky Way and Canis Major, Big Dog on the east; Puppis, the Stern of the Ship; Carina the ship's keel having the bright Canopus just visible above the mountain; the Southern Cross and Musca the Fly as the main constellations in the Southern Milky Way. They are all visible when the Moon is not too bright.

A very interesting group of stars to view with binoculars or a small telescope is the Southern Cross area. The Pointer Alpha Centauri is the closest star to us, being one light years away. With good seeing it can easily be resolved into two stars. Its distance was first measured from the Royal Observatory, now SAC, in 1832 by using its annual parallax.

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which is a shift in position a star appears to make, when viewed from Earth in different positions in the sky, which are 180° apart. This is done at intervals of six months, with a base line of twice 186 million miles, and the angle is measured in arc seconds.

By using a large telescope Alpha Centauri appears to be two naked stars and a dim smaller one now called Proxima Centauri. Alpha Centauri is early Alpha Trio. The largest star has a diameter of 1,035,000 miles and is orange, the second star is 916,000 miles diameter and the smallest star has a diameter of 62,000 miles. The two large stars revolve around one another in 79 years.

In the Southern Cross are two famous star clusters. A degree away from Beta Crucis is Kappa with the beautiful Jewel Box of Kappa Crucis as described by Herschel.

Ten degrees away from Beta Crucis is the nebula globular cluster called Omega Centauri, which is also a wonderful sight.

I wish to thank readers who have phoned or spoken to me about the night sky and particularly those who have kindly given information.

THE PLANETS

Mercury, magnitude -0.9 may be seen low in the east before sunrise until the 30th, on the 31st it is low in the west after sunset until the 20th April at magnitude -1.6. On the 1st it is 1° north of the Moon. There is a transit across the Sun on 7th May at 7:12am.

Venus, magnitude -4, is a very bright morning object until the second week in July. It is 3° north of the Moon on the 29th.

Mars, magnitude +1.8, is in Sagittarius until the third week in April. It is in the morning sky with Venus. It remains in the morning sky until the end of August. On the 25th it is 3° north of the Moon.

Jupiter, magnitude -2.4, is visible throughout the night near Gemini, moving towards Cancer. It is 4° south of the Moon on the 13th.

Saturn, magnitude -0.2 is an all night planet in Taurus until mid March, after which it becomes an evening object. Its rings are as open as they can be, as it is tilted at 25° to our line of sight. On the 11th it is 3° south of the Moon.

Uranus, magnitude +5.9, reappears in the morning sky after the middle of March. On the 29th it is 6° north of the Moon. See it with your binoculars.

Neptune, magnitude +8.0, is in Capricorn in the morning sky. On the 28th it is 5° north of the moon and is easily seen with binoculars. Pluto, magnitude +13.6 is in Serpens until early May. A telescope at 4-10 inch size is necessary to see it.

Do not forget to look out for the very bright Venus in the east in the early morning sky.

THE MOON: There will be two eclipses of the Moon later this year. On the 16th of May at 8:05am the first eclipse takes place, it ends at 8:15am. The second eclipse is on the 9th of November at 0:15am until 0:21am. An eclipse of the Moon can only occur at Full Moon. New Moon is on the 3rd; First Quarter on the 11th. Full Moon is on the 18th; Last Quarter on the 25th. Apogee is on the 7th and Perigee on the 19th.

THE SUN: On January 4th the Earth was closest to the Sun at perihelion at approximately 147 million km. On March 21st the Autumn Equinox takes place when the Sun is in Pisces, and on the equator. Sunrise on the 1st March is at 6:33am and Sunset at 7:23pm. On the 30th Sunrise is at 6:58am and Sunset at 8:41pm, so that the difference between sunrise at the beginning and end of the month is 25 minutes, and that of sunset is 42 minutes, so days are getting shorter and the sunrise is nearly half an hour later. After the 22nd the Sun is in the northern hemisphere. There will be a rare transit of Mercury across the face of the Sun on the 7th May at 7:15am, which begins 5 minutes before Sunrise at 7:20am, the 1st and at 12:31. Use your eclipse glasses to view this very rare event. Sun's tees may be fitted to binoculars to view the transit of Mercury.

METEOR SHOWERS: The Gamma Normide shower occurs on the 13th March between midnight and 4:30am. The Delta

Pavonids occur between 11th March and April 16th, between 2am and 4:30am.

COMETS: Comet Neat was visible last month at magnitude 7.0 until it rounded the Sun. It will be visible in Capricorn at the beginning of the month when it moves into Sculptor with a RA of 23°.42' and a declination of -28.22°S and magnitude 5. It has a short tail facing the Sun.
Comet Kudo-Fujikawa passed through the Constellation of Capricorn, the Goat, last month, south of Formalhaut and Aquarius, but was too close to both Sunset and Sunrise to be safely viewed by anyone not knowing the exact co-ordinates. It will be difficult to see this month. Anyone wishing to obtain an update on Comet co-ordinates contact David W Dunham on business@occultations.org or better still use the sky and telescope website www.skyandtelescope.com © 2002 Sky or fax 617-864-6117.

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SATELLITES: The following satellites pass overhead: TRMM in a NNW direction and Cosmos 2278 Rocket; Cosmos 2263 Rocket; and Cosmos 2333 Rocket in an ENE direction and give a very bright Iridium flash for a few seconds. People have phoned and asked if I had seen a satellite exploding but I had to inform them that these Iridium flashes frequently occur, and last several seconds. There is a website which gives the times of flash over Simon's Town, sometimes the flashes are so bright that they may be seen in daylight. Some people think they are alien spacecraft which have come to land on earth!!!
One of my readers kindly gave me the co-ordinates of both the satellites and the comets, for which I thank him.

Peter van Blommestein

CRIME REPORT

Simon's Town SAPS

Murder: Hoosen Plumbing Company c/o Waterfall and Palace Hill Road, Simon's Town On Tuesday 11 February at approx 9:30am, 43 year old Mrs Z Hoosen heard a knock at her back door. When she opened the door a black male dressed in a blue jacket approached her. A struggle ensued and a shot was fired, hitting her in the stomach. The black male fled the scene without taking anything. A search was conducted by members of SAPS Simon's Town, Fish Hoek and Ocean View aided by members of the SA Navy and Military Police. A suspect was detained on a train at Glencairn Railway Station at 10:10am. A blue jacket and firearm were recovered. The injured Mrs Hoosen was airlifted to Groote Schuur Hospital, where she subsequently died. The suspect is currently detained at Pollsmoor prison until his trial.

On the 1st of April 2003 the new Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000) will come into force, thus repealing the old Arms and Ammuni-

tion Act. There will be a public lecture on 19 March, 7:30pm at Fish Hoek Civic Centre (after the CPF Meeting) on The Firearms Control Act.

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(Alt. Insps. Store/Carstens)		786-2127	
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Peter Johnson	Business Association	786 1374
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Cdr Jaco Theunissen	SA Navy	786 3725
John Morris	Communications and Water Quality	786 1765
Nicki Holderness	Ward Councillor	786 3298

Tide Table - March 2003

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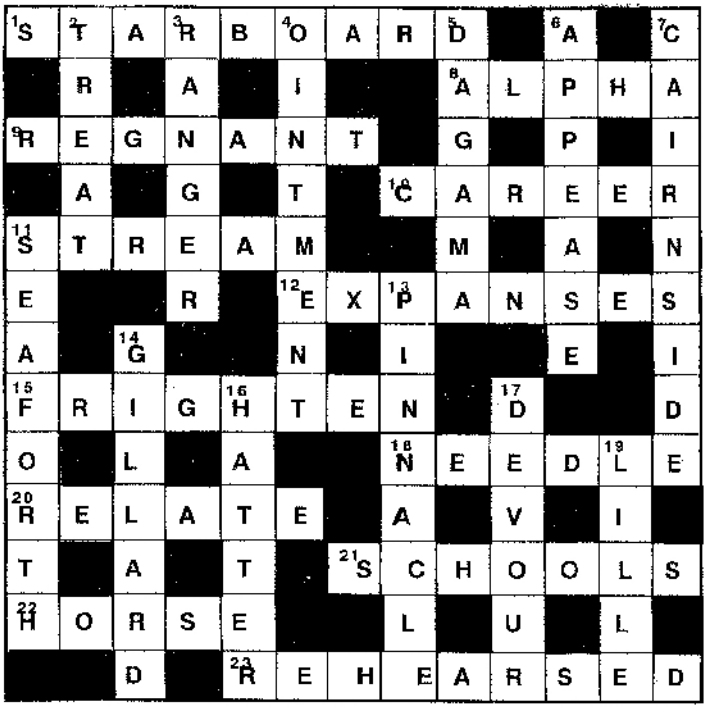
SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 21



Winner - Barbara Wiley

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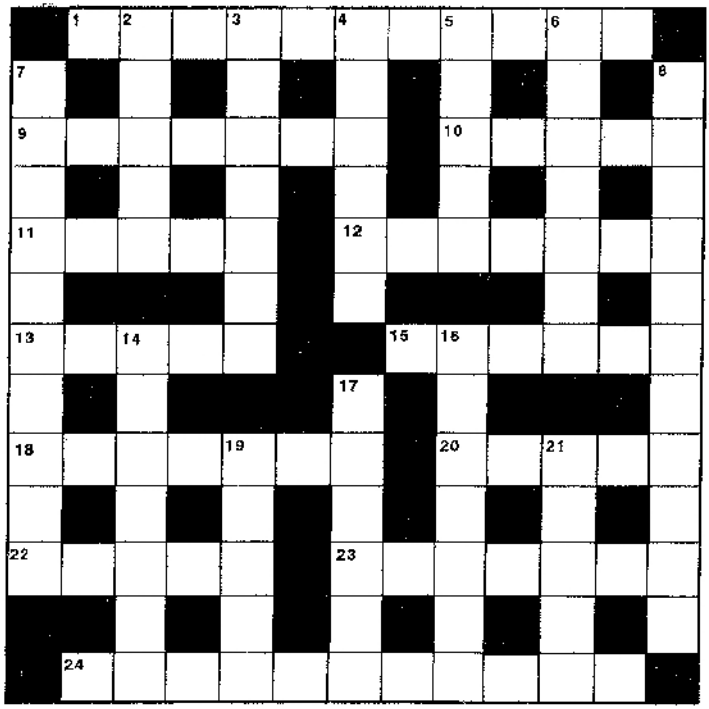
CROSSWORD PUZZLE 22



CLUES ACROSS

1 The 21st of this month is hardly a day for lefties (5,6)
9 If a mixed enticement is not a success... (7)
10 Nan, that is, could be the same girl (5)
11 It contains a backward female swan... not appropriate (5)
12 Pull out what used to be a pamphlet (7)
13 "To be of use" sounds like a transparent curtain (5)
15 To change course, including north-east, has polish (6)
18 Had sailed arranged with flowers (7)
20 A young dog, followed by forty-nine, is in a class (5)
22 The maximum distance covered by a bullet or a stove (5)
23 The dirty rotten, real facts (3,4)
24 R-radial gold can be smelted to form a street in froggy Pond (7,4)

CLUES DOWN

2 Untie? Arrange the very opposite (5)
3 A back-side (in the USA), Albert, is the adjoining land (7)
4 A nautical jacket, but you would be in trouble if you were to smoke it! (6)
5 Bestow something to an avenue at Boulders (5)
6 No agent gets stirred up about his weight (7)
7 But surely no cattle are to be found in either part of this road in Simon's Town (10)
8 A Conservative, embraced by disturbed lancer (East), could get to the alley where the vicar might live (7,4)
14 The remains of a fire is against being in Ghanian territory (7)
16 Authorise a war prisoner contained by mere mix-up (7)
17 Looking after the horses was his role, arranged around a short street (6)
19 I distribute perfection (5)
21 You'll find this Indian hill-town's name also in shampoo, naturally (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 28 March 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 March 2003

ARTSCAPE'S FESTIVE SEASON PRODUCTIONS & EVENTS: *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. **For more info call Michael Maas on 021 410 9921.**

ORGAN RECITALS - St Francis Church, Court Road, Simon's Town. Alan Clapp will perform works by Handel, Bach, Boellman and Warloch on Friday 7 March at 13:10. Come and enjoy our beautiful organ. Silver Collection. Grant Braslar will be playing on Friday 4 April.

PENSIONERS' FREE MONTHLY SHOPPING BUS To Pick n' Pay Longbeach Mall and Sun Valley. From Murdoch Valley (via Crescent terminus) via Simon's Town and Fish Hoek and return. Next trip **Thursday 6 March**. For times and pick up points please phone 021 786 3137.

PRESTIGIOUS PIANO QUARTET World renowned pianist Graham Fitch will lead his outstanding quartet at a concert in the Fish Hoek Civic Centre on **Friday 4 April at 8pm.** Tickets are R25 (children R5) at AP Jones, Dog's Whiskers or at the door. For more info call Carole 021 782 2282.

LECTURE Simon's Town Museum **12 March 5:30 for 6pm**, donation R10. Vice-Admiral Sir Alan Grose RN - the Falklands War - 21 years on.

FALSE BAY CHESS CLUB Started in 1947 in Glencairn by the late Surgeon Commander Holford, the Club plays on. **Mondays at 8pm** in the Fish Hoek Library hall. Your move!

FRIENDS OF SIMON'S TOWN COASTLINE All welcome. **Saturday 29 March at 9:30am** is a Coastal Cleanup. Bring gloves if you prefer, littler bags will be supplied. Meet at Glencairn Beach. For more info call 786-3890.

Talk: On Thursday 20 March at 7pm for 7:30pm Mr Anthony van Zyl, affiliated with the Western Cape Raptor Research Programme (UCT) will present a talk on "In Search of Rock Kestrels" at the Simon's Town Museum. Refreshments are provided for a small donation; non-members welcome.

THE BOULDERS HERITAGE ASSOC AGM The 6th Annual General Meeting of The Boulders Heritage Association will be held on **Sunday 9 March at 10:30am** on the verandah and on the lawn at Duart, 3 Kleintuin Road, Seaforth, Simon's Town (next to the Penguin Information Centre). All members of the Association and friends will be welcome. For more info call Jean on 786-1328 or 794-4531.

Deadline for March edition Friday 28 March 2003

Next Publication Monday 7 April 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.