



# SKCID UPDATE



### THE 2025 SKCID AGM WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

Thank you to every member who attended the AGM and to Theresa Wilson & Caroline Stelling for their assistance with facilitation on the night.

#### A high level summary:

- Voting was required to approve the annual report, budget and plan for the coming year along with the election of the new board. This included newly appointed Directors: Eric Pelsler (Security), Sergio Capellino (Fire), Andrew Robertson (Chair) with thanks to Lorraine Goddard (Environment) for standing for reflection and Nico Panagio for staying on as a Director.
- Votes were unanimous and the City Representatives complimented the Board on a well run AGM.
- The minutes will be available on the SKCID website along with the implementation plan, Budget and financials.

As part of the presentation it was clear just how much incredible work had gone into the establishment of the CID and the build up to its first projects. The successful results that were highlighted in the AGM were attributed to tireless work initiated by Clair Schaap, Gary Douglas, Lorraine Goddard, Nico Panagio & Sergio Capelini.

Going forward the Board under its newer Directors would like to consolidate and build upon this work with simple structures for new projects and ongoing maintenance in each portfolio. It was noted and discussed that each portfolio whilst having a single director has multiple roles that need to be fulfilled.

Q&A session yielded some great insights into the rollout of these projects. We hope that the members and residents got as much insight out of the exercise as we did. We see the AGM as a great opportunity to get a consolidated view of the CID roadmap.

We would like to extend a big thank you to members and residents who have volunteered, joined sub-committees and helped to make the SKCID what it is.

#### BEST WISHES FOR 2026 TO YOU ALL

Andy Robertson  
Chairperson. SKCID

### WHAT'S ON :

20 Feb 2026

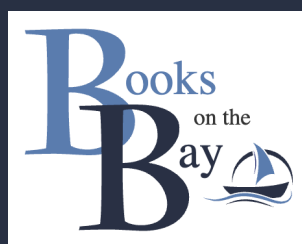


**3 Tons of Fun**

Café Roux

[www.caferoux.co.za/events](http://www.caferoux.co.za/events)

13 - 15 Mar 2026



**Book Festival**

Simon's Town

[www.booksonthebay.co.za](http://www.booksonthebay.co.za)

14 Mar 2026

IN AID OF  
VOLUNTEER  
WILDFIRE  
SERVICES



**Eagles Tribute Show**

Waters Edge

082 883 2070

### SUMMER 2026

Happy New Year  
SIMONS KLOOFER'S!

**Welcome to the newest issue of the SK Gazette!**

A new year brings fresh beginnings—and a whole new edition of our community newsletter. In this issue we're delighted to introduce you to the Simon's Kloof CID directors. Learn what Simon's Kloof means to each of them, and enjoy a lesser-known fact they've each shared just for you.

Beyond the director spotlights, there's plenty more to explore: the story behind the beautifully refurbished clock tower and an inside look at the ships, in the Naval dock. Whether you're a long-time resident or new to our neighbourhood, here's to staying connected, inspired, and informed as we enjoy the year ahead together.

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER BY SHARING NEWS OR IMAGES VIA EMAIL TO:  
[simonskloofgazette@gmail.com](mailto:simonskloofgazette@gmail.com)

**NEXT ISSUE OUT IN  
APRIL 2026**



# MEET THE SKCID DIRECTORS

## WE ASKED THE SKCID DIRECTORS...

...the following questions [their answers are alongside their picture]:

1. What motivated you to join the Simons Kloof Committee, and what do you hope to contribute?
2. What aspect of Simons Kloof or the surrounding environment is most meaningful to you?
3. Tell us one interesting or little-known fact about yourself that fellow residents might enjoy



Andrew Robertson  
[Chairperson]

1. I saw the great work that had been done. I would hope to continue and build upon it and engage with more of the community
2. I really love being so close to the ocean and having the incredible views of all the mountains that circle our beautiful bay
3. I really enjoy painting and sculpture and being in the peninsula drives me to do more creative work



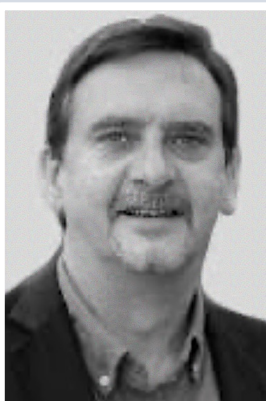
Nico Panagio  
[Director:  
Community/General]

1. Safety, maintenance and growth of any community require active participation from its members so I've always loved getting involved where I can
2. Our family spends most of our free time on trails, on beaches, or in the water
3. I do open-water swimming, and the change has been profound: my cold tolerance has soared, and my overall health has improved immensely!



Lorraine Goddard  
[Director: Environment]

1. I took over the entrance garden and combined it all into The Fire and Garden Portfolio, becoming a part of the committee
2. I love the amazing view of the sea in front of us but then right on my back doorstep I have the mountain with all the animals and birds behind me. The best of both worlds.
3. I have crossed the Atlantic from Cape Town to St Helena Island on a catamaran with 5 fellow crew members



Eric Pelsler  
[Director: Security]

1. Inspired by what Gary had achieved, I decided to take his excellent foundational work forward with the aim of making residents feel more safe and secure
2. The view across the bay on a clear day, all the way to Hangklip. Just amazing!
3. During Covid Theresa and I made exotic 10 course meals [Chinese, Ethiopian, Palestinian, Pakistani, Indonesian and Sri Lankan]



Sergio Capellino  
[Director: Fire]

1. I hope that the work I undertake adds to the overall safety of our community and I can assist in putting together a roadmap for the future
2. The history, the people, the nature, the ocean, the role players, the mountains, the views.....
3. Underwater photography is one of my passions. I really love exploring the kelp forests and having the opportunity to capture some beautiful images

# CHECK THIS OUT - NOW!

We live in a fire prone area, and as such it is our civic duty as property owners to prepare for fires. In the previous issues of the SK Gazette we discussed VEGETATION MANAGEMENT and GARDEN DESIGN.

**HERE ARE 4 OTHER THINGS YOU MUST ACT ON NOW:**



## PROPERTY STRUCTURES

- Ensure that you have clear and defensible space around sheds and fences
- Ensure that gas bottles are outside your home, where they won't be exposed to radiant heat



## FIRE HYDRANTS AND FIRE EQUIPMENT

- Know where the nearest Fire Hydrant is located
- Should you have a fire hydrant in front of your property, we ask for your assistance in keeping the hydrant clear of vegetation, sand and mud
- Know where the nearest set of Fire Equipment is located



## ACCESS TO WATER

- Make sure your hose pipes are long enough to reach outside your property and check that tap fittings are working
- Consider installing galvanized or iron water tanks or protect your plastic water tanks with a brick wall or corrugated iron sheeting
- Remove vegetation around your water tanks
- If using an electric pump for your water, ensure that you use an alternative source of power
- Remember no power =no pump =no water!



## INSURANCE

- Check the replacement value of your home, vehicles and outbuilding contents annually
- Check with your insurance and ensure that you understand the measures you need to take for fire risks. You may be held liable for fires that spread from your property to your neighbour

## LOCATION OF FIRE EQUIPMENT IN SIMON'S KLOOF

STREET NAME	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO
VICTORY WAY	Gary & Glynnis Douglas	25 Victory Way	079 362 7186
	Pieter Nel	8 Victory Way	082 821 7090
HORATIO WAY	John & Margie Lawrence	13 Horatio Way	082 451 4209
DOLPHIN WAY	Amanda & Walter: Managers for Carmen & Lance Thorp	25 Dolphin Way The Boathouse	083 782 1754
NELSON DRIVE	Euan Smith	31 Nelson Way	078 460 2635

## CAN YOU HELP US?

We are needing residents to assist us so that we as a community are fire-ready. If you can assist, please drop an email to Sergio and Andy at: [fire@simonskloofcid.co.za](mailto:fire@simonskloofcid.co.za)

# WHAT SHIP IS THAT? [part 1 of 2]

## Getting to know the SA Navy dock

We asked Simon's Kloof resident, Captain (ret) Shawn Wright to give us an insight into the SA Navy dock. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 articles. The April 2026 issue of the SK Gazette will detail information about the SA Navy submarines.

Many locals and visitors glance across the harbour and ask a few natural questions: what ships are those? why don't they sail more often? what exactly are they for? Below is a snapshot of the main types of vessels you're likely to see in the South African Navy, plus the big logistical challenges the Navy is working through right now.



SAS Amatola [F145]

### AT THE CORE OF THE SURFACE FLEET ARE FOUR VALOUR-CLASS FRIGATES:

#### **SAS Amatola (F145), SAS Isandlwana (F146), SAS Spioenkop (F147), SAS Mendi (F148)**

These are multi-role guided-missile frigates built for anti-surface, anti-air, and general patrol duties. They blend modern sensors with reduced radar and infrared signatures to be harder to detect. Each ship is designed for an expected service life of roughly 30-40 years, which is why maintaining them is so important.

What you might not know just by looking is that not all are fully operational at the same time. For example, public sources note SAS Amatola is in active service but listed as non-operational, reflecting the effect of maintenance and refit cycles on readiness.

**PATROL AND INSHORE/OFFSHORE SECURITY VESSELS:** To patrol coastal waters, safeguard fisheries, respond to piracy or smuggling, and conduct search and rescue, the Navy uses various patrol craft including harbour boats and multipurpose patrol vessels. A notable recent addition is the Warrior-class inshore patrol vessel series:

#### **SAS King Sekhukhune I (P1571) - first commissioned in 2022, SAS King Shaka Zulu (P1572), SAS Adam Kok (P1573)**

These vessels are built for multi-mission roles: maritime security, illegal fishing interception, anti-piracy, SAR, and protecting South Africa's maritime zones. The class is designed with modern propulsion, sensors, and support for boarding operations, and includes features to improve seakeeping and efficiency. Public technical data shows these vessels at about 62 m length, roughly 1,000-ton displacement, capable of around 26.5 knots with long range, plus on-board rigid-hull inflatable boats for boarding tasks. These patrol ships are particularly valuable given South Africa's long coastline and busy maritime traffic, and they're a visible reminder in Simon's Town of the Navy's day-to-day presence rather than just its larger combatants.



SAS Protea [A324]

**SUPPORT, MINE WARFARE AND AUXILIARY CRAFT** beyond combat and patrol vessels, the Navy operates a host of supporting ships:

**SAS Drakensberg (A301)** - a replenishment ship that keeps deployed vessels supplied over long distances. **SAS Protea (A324)** - a hydrographic survey ship used for charting and maritime mapping, helping ensure safe navigation along the coasts.

Mine counter-measure vessels and numerous smaller boats, tugs, harbour craft, and rigid-hull inflatable boats support coastal security, port protection, training, and logistics. These are the workhorses that help the Navy function day-to-day, especially when larger ships are in maintenance or on long deployments.

**THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE:** maintenance, funding, and dockyard capacity. Why don't some ships sail more often? A large part of the answer lies in maintenance needs, budget constraints, and dockyard capacity. Underfunding and delayed upkeep have been publicly highlighted. Reports from oversight visits noted that years of underfunding led to difficulties performing scheduled repairs and maintenance, which in turn reduced sea time and operational effectiveness. Dockyard constraints at Simon's Town have also been raised: relatively few technical personnel and ageing infrastructure were cited as issues, with ongoing projects facing delays in refurbishment or completion.

**Next time you see a ship bobbing quietly in the harbour**, remember it might be resting between major maintenance cycles, needed to keep it safe, capable, and ready for the day when it must sail again: for patrol, for cooperation with neighbouring countries, or for the protection of South Africa's vital maritime interests.

# SIMON'S TOWN DOCKYARD CLOCK TOWER GETS A REFURB



## ROY BURNIE AND HARRY CROOME HAVE BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING REFURB OF THE DOCKYARD CLOCK TOWER IN SIMON'S TOWN.

For more than two centuries, a steady, reassuring tick has marked days at the Simon's Town naval precinct. The historic clock tower [part of the old Mast House in the West Dockyard] dates back to the early 1800s and is possibly one of the oldest public turret clocks in South Africa.

### ITS LONG SILENCE WAS RECENTLY BROKEN THANKS TO A SMALL GROUP OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Originally installed in 1816, the clock was manufactured by the London firm Thwaites & Reed, one of the world's best-known clockmakers. It was supplied through Dutton & Sons and placed in the Royal Navy Mast House and Sail Loft, built in 1815. The mechanism, its bells, and the tower itself reflect meticulous early-19th-century craftsmanship, making it not just a timepiece but a living piece of naval and local heritage. After more than a year of silence, caused when a crucial spring clutch broke, three volunteers restored the mechanism using modern engineering methods.

They commissioned a replica part from a precision firm near Stellenbosch, fitted it perfectly, and the clock now keeps remarkably accurate time, within about one minute per week, wound weekly. This quiet restoration effort brought the bells chiming back across the town, delighting residents and visitors alike. The tower today sits within the South African Navy Museum complex and continues to serve as a vivid symbol of Simon's Town's maritime past and community spirit. Its renewal underscores how local volunteers, heritage bodies, and naval custodians work hand in hand to keep history alive—one tick at a time.

# 4 HEALTH HACKS FOR 2026

**HEALTH HACK:** a simple, quick strategy or small change to your routine that boosts well-being.

As the new year unfolds, it's great to think about big goals, but even tiny, reliable habits can make 2026 noticeably healthier. Here are 4 simple hacks that anyone can try, no special gear required!



## 1 AIM FOR A STEADY, WORKABLE SLEEP RHYTHM

Go to bed and wake up at roughly the same times each day. If you're often short on sleep, even trimming late-night screen time or cooling the bedroom a bit can help.

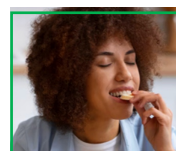
**QUICK HACK:** set an alarm 30-60 minutes before your ideal bedtime to start your wind-down routine



## 2 MOVE MORE, EVEN IN SHORT BURSTS

You don't need long workouts every day—regular, moderate activity works well.

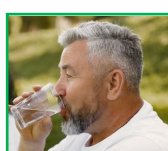
**QUICK HACK:** on a call or waiting for something? stand up and march on the spot or do gentle leg lifts for a few minutes



## 3 SNACK WITH PURPOSE, NOT JUST FOR THE CLOCK

Healthy snacking doesn't mean choosing foods that keep you fuller longer to match your day's energy needs.

**QUICK HACK:** prep two or three small snack packs for the week: simple combinations like almonds + dried fruit, or carrot sticks + hummus

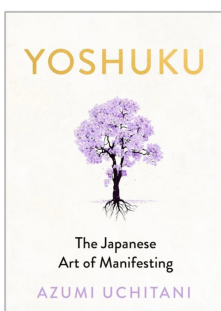


## 4 HYDRATE SMARTLY AND MINDFULLY

Aim to sip water steadily through the day. If you struggle with plain water, add a slice of lemon, lime, or a few mint leaves.

**QUICK HACK:** make your first drink of the day a full glass of water before anything else: before tea, coffee, or breakfast

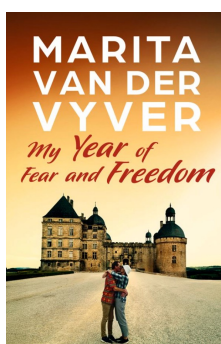
## THE SK BOOK NOOK



### YOSHUKU: THE JAPANESE ART OF MANIFESTING - Azumi Uchitani [2025]

*'An invitation to slow down, tune into the rhythms of the universe, and gently guide your destiny': Goodreads*

In a world of constant motion, where desires and dreams often feel just out of reach, "Yoshuku" offers a path to manifestation rooted in ancient Japanese wisdom and introduces you to the gentle power of collective intention and pre-celebration



### MY YEAR OF FEAR AND FREEDOM - Marita Van Der Vyver [2025]

*'If you love the art of wandering and recognise that sometimes getting lost is the best way to travel': Pippa Hudson Cape Talk*

In this journey, which spans three continents, a lifetime of memories from one of Afrikaans's greatest writers is explored. Sometimes you have to lose a lot, and also be willing to lose yourself, before you can truly gain freedom.

## NUMBERS TO SAVE

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021 590 1900 or  
107 from a landline or  
021 480 7700 from a cell

**SIMON'S TOWN FIRE:**  
021 400 3908

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
April 2026

**CONTENT DEADLINE:**  
06 March 2026

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