



SKCID UPDATE



AN UPDATE FROM YOUR (MOSTLY NEW!) SKCID BOARD.

We're a fresh board with fewer hands and less time, but we're deeply committed to building upon the great work that's come before us. Over the past few months, we've been getting up to speed, tightening up our processes, and setting things up so we can engage more openly and effectively with the community.

We'll share full updates soon, but for now we want to say a big thank-you to the residents who've already stepped in. Your involvement has not only helped us launch new projects, it's lifted the ongoing work of the CID in ways we're truly grateful for.

For those who are interested in getting involved, we'd love to welcome you in – and we've been working hard to structure things so it's easy to find a role that fits your time, skills, and interests.

3 simple ways to support your CID:

1. Join us: Each portfolio now has clear roles and requirements, making it easier than ever to get involved. Every portfolio also has a volunteer sub-committee for ad-hoc tasks and ongoing work. There's a place for every skillset and every schedule.

2. Lend a hand, or a skill: Our board brings a diverse mix of experiences, but nothing compares to the collective expertise in our community. If you spot something where your knowledge or network could help, please lean in. A small contribution can make a big difference.

3. Share what you see, share what you do: If you're working on something that benefits the neighbourhood, we'd love to hear about it and explore how we can support you. And if you're experiencing issues, big or small, keep us in the loop. If you have had success with a new contact at the city or service provider, please let us know. Even when we can't act immediately, the information helps us track patterns, advocate on your behalf, and escalate recurring concerns.

Contact us at: skcid@simonskloofcid.co.za

The SKCID Board

AUTUMN 2026

Hello SIMONS KLOOFER'S!

We are pleased to share the 8th issue of the SK Gazette with you.

In this issue we share various species of fynbos found in our backyard as well as animals that you may spot in your garden or on the mountain behind Simon's Kloof.

As promised, we also continue our feature on the SA Navy – this time concentrating on the submarines. And there are articles on the Overseers cottage on table mountain, recycling made easy, and an appreciative nod to the NSRI for coming to the rescue of the yacht that recently broke her moorings and was grounded at Long Beach.

A welcome to those who are new to the neighbourhood – we hope you enjoy this wonderful place we call home.

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

NEXT ISSUE OUT IN
JULY 2026

WHAT'S ON :

17 - 19 Apr 2026



SA Navy Festival
Simon's Town Harbour
021 - 787 4696

15 - 17 May 2026



Simon's Town Festival
Simon's Town
nyati-x.com/simontownfestival

24 May 2026



Cape Town Marathon
Cape Town
capetownmarathon.com

MOUNTAINSIDE LIVING IN SIMON'S KLOOF

While the Navy and the penguins often take centre stage in Simon's Town, those who live in the "Kloof" know that the town's true soul is rooted in the ancient granite and sandstone of the mountainside. Living here means sharing your backyard with some of the rarest flora on earth and a cast of wild neighbours that range from the elusive to the bold.

The Fynbos Frontier: our world heritage backyard

Simon's Kloof is not just a suburb, it's an ecotone – a transition zone between urban life and the Table Mountain National Park. The slopes above the town are dominated by Peninsula Sandstone Fynbos. This isn't just "scrub" it's a botanical powerhouse. Within a few hundred meters of your front door, you can find:



Pic: The Gardener

King Protea: South Africa's national flower often hides in the more sheltered folds of the mountain.



Pic: iNaturalist

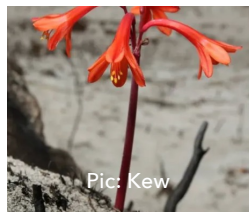
Swartkops Spiderhead:

Grows up to 50 cm tall and flowers from June to October. Endemic to Simon's Town.



Pic: The Gardener

Silver Tree: Shimmering, silky leaves, this rare tree is endemic to the Peninsula and finds a perfect sanctuary on our south-facing slopes.



Pic: Kew

Fire Lilies: These remarkable flowers remain dormant for years, only blooming in a spectacular carpet of red immediately after a mountain fire has passed through.

Simon's Kloof wildlife: take time to look up

Living on the mountain means accepting that you are never truly alone. The wildlife here has adapted to the "urban edge" with varying degrees of stealth.



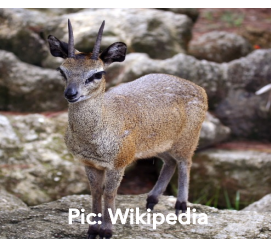
Pic: Africa Geographic

The Urban Caracal: These "lynx-like" cats are often spotted in the early dawn slinking through the fynbos to hunt dassies.



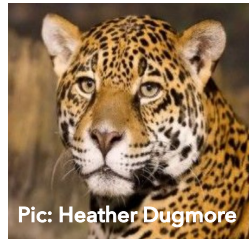
Pic: Africa Geographic

Cape Porcupine: These nocturnal residents love to forage in the Kloof's gardens and are particularly fond of bulbs!



Pic: Wikipedia

Klipspringers: Seen perched on the rocky outcrops above the town, standing perfectly still like statues against the skyline.



Pic: Heather Dugmore

Cape Mountain Leopard: Rare but known to roam the Peninsula. Smaller and more elusive than their savanna cousins, acting as the apex predators of our peaks.

FROM THE KLOOF TO THE COAST

New R434m Hub Saving Our Shores



For residents of Simon's Kloof, the weekly ritual of "putting out the bins" is more than just a chore – it's a logistical necessity. Tucked away at the end of the line, our town is further from the City's major landfills than almost any other suburb. With the Coastal Park Landfill predicted to reach full capacity by 2027, the pressure to divert waste away from the "black bag" has never been higher. Fortunately, a solution has risen from the literal rubble. Just a short drive down Baden Powell Drive, the City of Cape Town has officially launched the R434 mill Coastal Park Material Recovery Facility (MRF). This state-of-the-art sorting hub is changing the game for Simon's Town households, turning our "dry waste" into a valuable resource rather than a buried problem.



THE JOURNEY OF A PLASTIC BOTTLE

Ever wondered what happens to that empty plastic bottle after it leaves your curb in a clear bag? Its journey is a high-tech odyssey:

1. THE COLLECTION	2. THE ARRIVAL	3. THE SORTING	4. THE BALING
A dedicated recycling truck (separate from the refuse compactor) collects bags from Simon's Kloof on our scheduled day.	The truck heads to the new Muizenberg hub. This is a "clean" facility - it only processes dry recyclables like plastic, paper, glass, and cans.	Inside the massive warehouse, your bottle enters a system of conveyors, passing through magnetic separators and infrared optical sorters.	Once sorted by material, the plastic is crushed into one-tonne bales and sold to manufacturers to become new products, from detergent bottles to outdoor decking.

SIMON'S KLOOF RECYCLING "CHEAT SHEET"

To ensure your waste actually gets recycled and doesn't contaminate the batch, follow these local guidelines:

CLEAR



BAG

Paper & Cardboard: Magazines, newspapers, flattened cereal boxes, office paper.

Plastic: Rinsed milk/juice bottles, yogurt tubs, detergent containers (look for symbols 1, 2, 4, and 5).

Metal: Aluminium soda cans, tin food cans (rinsed), metal jar lids.

Glass: All coloured glass bottles and jars (please remove lids).

BLACK



BAG

Contaminated Items: Dirty pizza boxes (oil ruins paper recycling), used tissues, or wet paper.

Non-Recyclables: Nappies, toothpaste tubes, cling wrap, and food scraps.

SUBMARINE SERVICE OF THE SA NAVY [part 2 of 2]

Getting to know the SA Navy dock

Thank you to Simon's Kloof resident, Captain (ret) Shawn Wright for these insights into the SA Navy submarines

THE EARLY YEARS

The submarine service of the South African Navy has evolved through several distinct phases shaped by global conflicts, political change, and modernisation. It began during World War II, when South Africa did not operate its own submarines but contributed personnel to the Royal Navy submarine service. This experience laid the groundwork for future domestic capability. South Africa formally established its submarine arm in the late 1960s, acquiring three French-built Daphné-class submarine vessels – SAS Maria van Riebeeck, SAS Emily Hobhouse, and SAS Johanna van der Merwe. These entered service between 1970 and 1972 and were based at Naval Base Simon's Town. During the apartheid era, the submarines were primarily used for coastal defence and surveillance, though international sanctions limited upgrades and support. By the 1990s, the aging Daphné-class submarines were retired, leaving a temporary gap in undersea capability. After the end of apartheid, South Africa reoriented its military through modernisation programs aligned with its new strategic posture.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN STRATEGIC DEFENCE PACKAGES FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE

In the early 2000s, the navy acquired three German-built Type 209/1400 submarine submarines (Heroine-class): SAS Manthatisi, SAS Charlotte Maxeke, and SAS Queen Modjadji I. Commissioned between 2005 and 2008, these vessels significantly enhanced South Africa's maritime surveillance, deterrence, and special operations capabilities.



TODAY

The submarine service remains a key component of the South African Navy, focused on protecting sea lines of communication, supporting regional security, and contributing to multinational maritime operations.

BUDGET CONSTRAINTS SEVERELY RESTRICT UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE FOR VESSELS

As of 2026, the Fleet remains a critical component of the Navy's "Blue Print Force" plan. However, like many modern naval programs, it faces significant budgetary and maintenance hurdles.

- **Maintenance:** Funding constraints often limit the number of boats available for sea at any given time, with vessels frequently rotated through deep-cycle maintenance or "preservation" to extend their lifespans.
- **International Cooperation:** Despite these challenges, the SAN regularly participates in multinational exercises, such as the Exercise MILAN and joint drills with BRICS Plus partners, to maintain crew proficiency and interoperability.

VISIT SAS ASSEGAAI

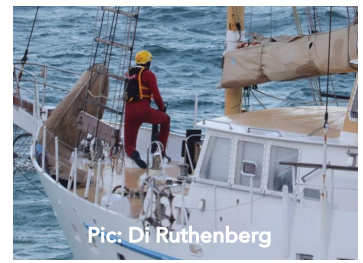
For those interested in the history of the Fleet, the South African Naval Museum in Simon's Town offers a preserved Daphné-class submarine, the SAS Assegai, which serves as a museum ship and provides a rare look into the life of a submariner.

Bookings can be made by calling (021) 787-4786 or simply drive down to the village parking at NSRI and book a walk-in tour, which will take an hour. Costs are between R40 and R80, depending on age. The submarine is open 7 days a week from 09:30 to 16:00.

NSRI TO THE RESCUE, again ...



On Monday afternoon the 23 March, the NSRI Simon's Town station 10 responded to a call for assistance of an unmanned yacht that had broken her moorings in the 40 knot winds and was grounded on the shoreline at Long Beach. The NSRI rescue craft Donna Nicholas was launched while rescue swimmers were also dispatched and soon established a towline. As the spring high tide peaked, the towline was gradually taken up by the rescue craft while her anchor was raised. The yacht soon nudged off a shallow ledge and was refloated without damage to the hull. NSRI's Simon McDowell also assisted on his private craft Torah during the operation. *Thank you again, the NSRI!*



DON'T JUST LIVE BY THE SEA HELP SAVE IT

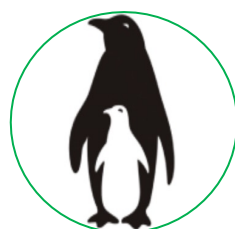
Living in Simon's Kloof means we have a front-row seat to one of the most vibrant marine ecosystems on the planet. To keep False Bay a "Hope Spot," we need to move from being spectators to being Citizen Scientists. Whether you are a deep-sea diver, a weekend beach-comber, or simply someone who enjoys a morning coffee overlooking the harbour, there is a role for you:

CALLING ALL
"KLOOFERS"
OUR BAY NEEDS
YOUR EYES!



GOT A SMARTPHONE?

Download the **iNaturalist** app. Every photo you take of a washed-up "Mermaid's Purse" (shark egg) or a shell at Seaforth helps global researchers track our shifting tides.



GOT SOME SPARE TIME?

Join the **SANCCOB** volunteer network to help protect our iconic African Penguins, or sign up with **Shark Spotters** to help keep our beaches safe and sustainable.



WANT TO GET SALTY?

Connect with **Cape RADD** right here on St George's Street to join a "Snorkel for Science" expedition.

DON'T JUST LIVE BY THE SEA - HELP SAVE IT

OVERSEERS COTTAGE - TABLE MOUNTAIN

WANT TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL AND STAY ON TOP OF TABLE MOUNTAIN?



Pic: LekkeSlaap



Pic: SANParks

The SANParks Overseers Mountain Cottage has incredible views, situated right on top of the mountain, in the Table Mountain National Park. The cottage is reached via a moderate 2 to 2.5 hours walk from Constantia Nek

Visitors need to make arrangements with the Platteklip Wash Houses prior to arrival with regards to portorage. Portorage is from Constantia Nek parking area. Please note this is hiking accommodation and all visitors need to hike up and down the mountain.

The cottage and its adjoining annex can accommodate groups of up to 16 guests. The first bedroom contains 4 single beds. The second bedroom contains a bunk bed. The third bedroom contains 2 bunk beds. The fourth, fifth and sixth bedrooms each contain 2 single beds.

The rooms have shared use of an ablution facility. The kitchen is well-equipped for self-catering and includes a gas fridge and gas stove, and cutlery and crockery. There is no electricity at the cottage and gas geysers and a paraffin lanterns are supplied. The house has a communal boma and braai area. A starter kit of wood is supplied, but it is recommended that you bring an additional bundle or 2 if you like a fire. [LekkeSlaap]

Book via: LekkeSlaap, SANParks, or SA-Venues

THE SK BOOK NOOK



Cathy Carstens

Getting back on the bike

A journey of grit, grace and rising up again

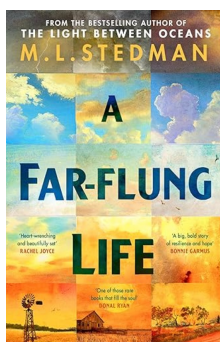
"An inspiring book by someone who has done it all and more and" - Daily Dispatch 2026

"A profound example of how to overcome any challenge life presents" - Daily Dispatch 2026

GETTING BACK ON THE BIKE - Cathy Carstens [2026]

'a compelling and deeply inspiring memoir of resilience, triumph and personal transformation': Exclusive Books

This book is a powerful reminder that the race of life is won not by perfection, but by the courage to begin again. Blending cycling history, lived wisdom, and emotive storytelling, this book offers both an inspiring sports narrative and a guide to living with courage, purpose, and authenticity.



FROM THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS
M.L. STEDMAN

A

FAR-FLUNG

LIFE

A FAR-FLUNG LIFE - M L Stedman [2026]

'Stedman mixes big emotions with beautiful writing to intoxicating effect': Good Housekeeping

For generations, the MacBrides have lived on a remote sheep station, Meredith Downs. A million arid acres, it's an ocean of land, where the weather is a capricious god, and time still roams untamed. A sweeping, heart-wrenching novel of family and belonging, of compassion and hope and a powerful testament to the enduring strength of love.

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