

Sea Cadet Scuttlebutt!

August 2008



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams". Eleanor Roosevelt

Welcome to this the first edition of the Sea Cadet Scuttlebutt, a newsletter produced by the Public Relations Division of the Sea Cadet Company. It has long been felt that we needed to have a publication which will not only announce specific events but which will also provide information to our varied members, supporters and sponsors. It is planned to publish the Scuttlebutt twice per year. Should any reader wish to write to the editor, please feel free to do so and we will publish your views, the address is the Public Relations Division, P O Box 7681, Newton Park, Port Elizabeth, 6055 or e-mail to info@seacadets.za.org. The Scuttlebutt will also be published on our website www.seacadets.za.org We hope that you enjoy this first edition.

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A bit of history for those who may not know ! The SA Sea Cadets have a history which goes back to 1905 when the first unit was started in Cape Town. It is preceded in age by two other similar organisations both based in the United Kingdom, namely the Marine Society [started in 1756 and still going strong] and the UK Sea Cadet Corps [started in 1854 and also going strong]. The SA Sea Cadets does not have any ties with these two illustrious organisations other than that we all share similar aims and visions, namely to *"provide maritime skills training to the youth of our respective countries"*

The SA Sea Cadets, shortly after celebrating its Centenary in 2005, took a significant decision to firstly register as a Section 21 Company and secondly to embark upon a process of seeking accreditation from the Transport Sector Education, Training and Development Authority as well as the South African Maritime Safety Authority. This recognition would enable the new Company to achieve a sustainable future with a secure financial base. In addition the Company registered as a Non Profit Organisation as well as a Public Benefit Organisation under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act - this latter affords donors a tax relief.

Have we achieved our goals yet ? Well beside now being a registered Company, the road to accreditation is long and arduous. We are lucky to have Mrs Betsy Ings, CEO of Siyaloba Training Academy, as our guide on this journey to accredited recognition. We have made significant progress and our Application should be ready for submission to the authorities early in 2009. In the meantime we are pursuing accredited training under the auspices of Siyaloba Training Academy - Mrs Ings' brainchild. Currently 27 boys and girls are under accredited training in Port Elizabeth. It is our intention to introduce the Units in Durban [TS Tiburon] and Cape Town [TS Woltemade] to accredited training early next year with the unit in Knysna [TS Knysna] following shortly thereafter. Ultimately we want all our Units to be able to offer this training, however it may take some longer than others to achieve and meet the minimum criteria.

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Two interesting events occurred recently. In the first of these, the Officer Commanding SAS Protea handed over command to a new Officer Commanding. There is nothing very significant to the Sea Cadets in such a change-of-command other than the two people concerned were both ex-cadets ! The out-going Officer Commanding was Captain Andrew Blake formerly a cadet at TS Woltemade in Cape Town ; whilst the new Officer Commanding is Captain Theo Stokes formerly of TS Lanherne in Port Elizabeth and later of TS Outeniqua in Mossel Bay. Theo Stokes was the South African Sea Cadet of the Year in 1989. We, the Sea Cadets, are proud of the achievement of these young men.

The second event was the 10 years celebration of the South African Maritime Safety Authority. During these celebrations, the CEO of SAMSA, Mr Tsietsi Mokhele, noted that *"in April 2008 SAMSA contributed towards the further development of the local maritime skills pool through a donation of over R5000 to the SA Sea Cadets - one of the country's few institutions striving to provide good quality maritime qualifications"*. This is indeed recognition of our commitment to the provision of meaningful training for our boys and girls - the donation was used to print the newly released Sea Cadet Able Seaman training manual, a copy of which is given to every cadet during his or her advancement through our training. Thank you SAMSA for your support.

But the success of our ex-cadets is not solely confined to South Africa, just recently two ex-cadets from the Port Elizabeth Unit [1982 era] were successfully integrated into the World Bank in Washington, they were ex-Cadets Masters and Phillips.

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The Annual Meetings of the combined Company Members, Board of Directors and Executive Committee will take place in Port Elizabeth on the week-end of the 18th to 19th October 2008. This annual meeting is most important in the over-all scheme of the development of the Company. Three significant presentation are covered during the initial combined meeting, namely the financial situation of the Company, secondly the progress of the training development towards accreditation and thirdly the "health" of the Sea Cadet Corps - the operations division. We hope that all our members, both private and corporate will be able to attend these meetings, which provide guidance to the direction in which the Company is developing. This year we will welcome one of our newest Corporate Members, the Oceana Group, whose subsidiary - Blue Continent Products - makes an annual contribution of R10 000 towards the training of our cadets. Talking of donations, we also received the most welcome donation from Pick 'n Pay earlier this year - thank you Pick 'n Pay.

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Our Sea Cadet Units continue to engage in various high profile events run in various towns and cities. The Cape Town Unit, TS Woltemade, was invited by the SA Navy to participate in the annual Navy Festival in Simon's Town earlier this year. This prestigious event show cases the SA Navy and includes such items as the Drydock Concert given by the internationally recognised SA Navy Band, the exercising of the Freedom of Entry into Simon's Town by the SA Navy and many other notable events.

During the Easter holidays, the Port Elizabeth Unit was once again invited to participate and assist in the National Dive-Ex competition held off Noordhook just outside Port Elizabeth. This event sees divers from all over the country compete in a variety of events. The Sea Cadets assist with the marshalling of the diving boats and in many other ways.

The annual prestigious Oyster Festival once again took place in Knysna in July. This festival has become the place to be and be seen during July in the Southern Cape. The festival highlight is the entrance of a squadron of ships of the South African Navy through the "Heads" - these vessels are open to the public during their stay in Knysna ; the exercising of the Freedom of Entry parade by the SA Navy into Knysna *"with drums beating and colours flying"*. The local Sea Cadet Unit is heavily involved in various arena events during the week culminating with the annual birthday parade and inspection by the senior SA Navy officer present during the Festival - this year the Unit was honoured by the presence of the Flag Officer Fleet, Rear Admiral "Rusty" Higgs.

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The state of the Corps is indeed positive. Most of the Training Ships are making good and steady progress, however there is concern in regard to the Training Ships in Gauteng. Three of the Units have 100 or more cadets [TS Woltemade, TS Knysna and TS Lanherne], TS Tiburon in Durban has a very high ratio of Zulu boys and girls compare to other cultures, whilst many of the smaller Units continue to make good and steady progress, with the newest Unit, TS Pelican - the second unit in Cape Town - grows weekly !

The situation in Gauteng is distressing because of the seeming lack of public participation. There are four units, TS Immortelle - Johannesburg [1916], TS Springs [1916], TS Bounty - Vereeniging [1949] and TS Fearless - Centurion [1987]. As can be seen some with a history of over 90 years. There are a combination

of factors which have caused these units to regress, factors such as the shift in population, distance from the sources of Cadets, insecure and vulnerable areas such as Wemmer Pan where wholesale destruction of the SA Navy Base, SAS Rand, has taken place with the resultant destruction of much of TS Immortelle. Other contributory factors are the shortage of staff as well as the work related constraints of existing staff - it is difficult to attend a parade if you are fixing an aeroplane somewhere in Africa ! TS Fearless, the largest of these four units, has faced a number of relocation of its headquarters over the last few years for a variety of reasons. The situation in Gauteng will require a determined effort on the part of a task team, hopefully which will include elements of the SA Navy Reserve in the area, to investigate the possible resolutions of the inhibiting factors over which we have some control, such as the location of the Unit relevant to the source of Cadets and access to water. If some concerted effort is not forthcoming, we could see the closure of some or all of these units to the detriment of the youth of the area.

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Who Has Gone Where ! As is the case with most organisations, staff movements seem to occur continually. These movements can include promotion, re-deployment and resignations. Over the last few months we have encountered our fare share of movements.

Promotions : The recent promotions took effect during the last few months :

Lt Jimmy Young of TS Tiburon, to Lieutenant Commander.

Acting Lt Cdr Cyril Akers, Assistant Area Officer Cape West, to Lieutenant Commander.

Sub Lt Isandro Pinto to Lieutenant

Midshipman Leon Rozenkrans [formerly a Cadet of this unit] of TS Woltemade to Ensign.

Appointments :

Acting Senior Officer South African Sea Cadets - Commander Rupert Toms and promoted to Captain (SCC).

Corps Executive Officer - Commander Ian Loubser.

National Human Resource Officer - Lt Cdr Andrew Conradie - and promoted to Commander.

National Logistics Officer - Lt Cdr Greg Bartie and promoted to Commander.

Area Officer Cape West - Lt Cdr Cyril Akers.

Area Officer Cape East - Lt Cdr Phillip Miller from 2009

TS Immortelle - Lt Isandro Pinto as Commanding Officer

TS Springs - Lt Wayne Partridge as Commanding Officer.

TS Pelican - Lt Peter Flanagan as Officer-in-Charge.

Sub Lt Arran Flanagan [formerly Cadet of the Year 2004 - TS Fearless] to TS Pelican as 1st Lt.

Sub Lt Hilton Spencer [formerly a Cadet of TS Fearless] to TS Pelican.

Mr Isaac Prince as the Chaplain of the unit.

TS Woltemade - Sub Lt David Crowley as Officer-in-Charge wef Jan 2009.

TS Tiburon Natasha Young [formerly a Cadet of this until] as Civilian Instructor.

Lungelo S Khuzwayo [formerly a Cadet of this unit] as Civilian Instructor.

Resignations :

It was with much regret that the Board accepted the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer, Rear Admiral Theo Honiball. Admiral Honiball oversaw the entry of the SA Sea Cadets into the status of a Company and contributed to its initial success. The Admiral had decided to pursue one of his other loves, putting brush to canvas, and intends holding an exhibition of his works later this year. We wish Admiral Honiball much success in his artistic pursuit.

It was also with regret that the Board has accepted Captain Chris Matchett's resignation as the Senior Officer South African Sea Cadets, with effect from October 31st 2008. Captain Matchett has served in many capacities over his 21 years with the Corps, but finds now that the call on his time by the National Port Authority curtails his ability to not only care for his family but also to actively manage the affairs of the Corps. We wish Captain Matchett well in his task of ensuring the ports of South Africa are world class.

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Visitor. The annual United Kingdom Sea Cadet of the Year is in the middle of his three weeks visit to South Africa. The visitor this year is Cadet Petty Officer Sebastian Buchert. Sebastian hails from TS Skirmisher in Pembroke, Wales. His father, and American, was in the US Navy until he retired. Sebastian is one of the youngest Petty Officers in his Unit, has attended the course for cadets at the British Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, is a marksman in .22 calibre, peeled buckets of potatoes on TS Royalist [the off-shore square rigger training ship of the UK Sea Cadets], enjoys cooking and plays the Oboe in the Three Counties Orchestra - what will he do after he completes his schooling ? Perhaps pursue medicine or the Royal Navy or both or neither ! We hope that Sebastian enjoys his visit to South Africa and will take home with him some good memories.

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