

December 2024



## Chairman's Note

Where did 2024 go? The years seem to spin faster as I age. Fortunately, I enjoy living in Simon's Town and engaging with several civic matters. Eight years on the STCA EXCO has introduced me to many people, agencies, issues and ideas. I find some issues, are repetitive and just 'managed' more than solved while others are invigorating and actual progress can be made. Some challenges just have to be met.

The STCA membership being only around 10% of the residents indicates that our EXCO must show the residents what we do if we are to sign them up as members. On becoming Chairman at the start of Covid-19, some 4 years ago, we enthusiastically produced a monthly newsletter. It was quite well received, I think, but it lacked a two way flow between us and you. Over the last two years our Annual General Meetings (AGM) and General Meetings (GM) have been our main communication points. The EXCO has agreed to improve this communication and I hope you will begin to get news on our activities and opportunities for community development and improved service delivery from the City and other agencies.

Di Ruthenberg administers our STCA Facebook, updated daily with interesting posts on local issues related to current civic issues and news. Peter Willis administers a Baboon Updates WhatsApp group you can sign up to. Our website is in the process of being updated and will be more active in 2025 in sharing important information (for example when the City calls for comment on relevant items in our area).

This is essential for being more interactive and representative to our members.

I enjoy motivating and running the STCA gardens project. It is a project with general support and little contention, unlike some other issues. We've raised almost R100, 000 in donations in three years. I manage the gardeners and take waste to our handy local dump, while gardening volunteers give me advice and support by donating nice plants. We manage gardens from the town entrance along High Street and also cover some Heritage Lanes too and, occasionally, other areas like the Old Burying Ground. Residents also adopt their own local garden areas; Goede Gift, for example. It would be great if residents living around the Old Burying Ground with its long fringe on Queens Road could rally to its support. Steph Mellor ([simonstown.com](http://simonstown.com)) is trying hard to save the Klawer Steps from severe decay. For much of the last century these steps were maintained by the navy but now fall on TMNP who don't seem to rank them in their duties.

We have just begun to restore the Soldiers Way garden, below the Arsenal Road rockery. This has attracted some good donations so we are now clearing and preparing the land, ready for some beautiful new plants before the next rains. If you like this activity please help move it into its fourth year by donating to STCA gardens Project: Standard Bank; Account No. 073815209; Reference your surname; cell phone & ST gardens to ring fence your donation. You can also specify a garden or locality.

I hope we all have a lovely time with our families and friends over the holidays and all work together for our shared benefit in 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Metcalfe". The script is fluid and cursive.

Simon Metcalfe - STCA Chair  
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# PORTFOLIO REPORTS

**STCA finances** remain safely with our **Treasurer Tim Skea**. At the recent General Meeting (October) Tim reported R136,642 in the bank from membership fees, accumulated over several years and earning R6,722 over the past 9 months. We spent R7,500 on a legal opinion confirming that CCT, TMNP and Cape nature are the joint responsible authorities for a governance and management plan for the baboon population in the Far South. We gave R6,000 to the Glencairn NHW to fund a solar panel for the LPR camera opposite the Mall, on Dido Road. Administration costs are under R6000, leaving a net surplus of R9000 from Jan to October.

The **STCA membership** has fallen somewhat since pre-Covid 19 days, reducing our legitimate civic lobby 'voice'. We got a membership boost at the recent GM and **Merle Everste** (membership portfolio) introduced a 3 year membership for R300, as against R130 per annum, relieving us from having to renew the entire membership annually.

**Civic projects with the Navy: Prof. David Attwell and Lt. Cdr. Lebohang Molefe** spoke at our GM on the proposed navy and civic collaboration to revitalise the run down tennis courts on Cornwall Drive and initiate a joint sporting club. Debbie McComb & Simon Metcalfe are meeting regularly with Lt. Cdr. Molefe as the potential for civil-naval collaboration is explored. The STCA is willing to support all positive initiatives on this front. There is so much potential. For example the Else River runs through the navy suburb of Da Gama Park and CCT's Welcome Glen and Glencairn suburbs. The need for watershed management requires a joint approach.



Lt. Cdr. Molefe presenting at the STCA's General Meeting.



The team working on the Soldiers Way garden.

**Debbie McComb** has several STCA civic portfolio roles:

- **Cape Metro Subcouncil 19** (South Peninsula) forum, where we are informed of all the CCT departmental policies, programmes, and projects e.g. spatial development framework, coastal management, roads, water, waste management etc.
- **Far South Peninsula Community Forum** (FSPCF). Ratepayer Associations and NPOs collaborate and lobby on shared policy, planning, and implementation concerns e.g. spatial housing densification policy in urban planning is a hot issue in Fish Hoek, and generally.

**The STCA property portfolio** focuses mainly on building requests for planning departures. This demands review, examination and consideration of neighbouring properties. There is a special concern for the Simon's Town Heritage Overlay Zone (HPOZ) where the Architectural Advisory Committee adds another layer to the CCT's oversight.

**The STCA would welcome a volunteer with an urban planning or architectural background to support this portfolio.**





STAGs mural at the SS Assegai Submarine Museum.

**Establishing a City Improvement District (CID):** Alex Jongens serves on a steering committee working to establish a Special Rating Area (SRA) for a zone presently delineated from Redhill Road to Boulders Beach. Simonskloof has already established one, indicating the utility of having a well bounded area with a known resident group. You can find out more about the Simonskloof CID by going to their website: <https://simonskloofcid.co.za/>.

Establishing a CID is an administratively heavy process guided by consistent engagement with the City of Cape Town's City Improvements Districts team which sits within the Urban Regeneration, Spatial Planning and Environment Department. The steering committee will start the formal public participation process early in 2025. Residents and property owners will be informed of the commencement of the process through different lines of communication such as email, via Whatsapp Groups and Channels as well as notices in the local newspapers.

The STCA has funded the compulsory setting up of a dedicated website and is willing to ring fence any donations given to move this process faster. It is a delicate and dedicated process.

**Improving public spaces:** Alex also has a portfolio interest in improving our shared common spaces like our unique Heritage Lanes. Imagine if they were well kept, safe, lit up in the evening for strolling and full of stories about our diverse history. Alex is supporting the Simon's Town Museum and Ben Cousins to get the City's Roads Department to upgrade the Rectory Steps (next to Kalidas), featured in a Peter Clarke painting.

Alex motivated for STCA support for two murals by the Simon's Town Art Group (STAG) - the Table Bay landscape on the condemned Dawood Building and the recently unveiled mural for the SS Assegai Submarine Museum. **Any community can participate in livening up their own villages and volunteering to collaborate with Alex.**

The **STCA maintains a community safety and social development portfolio.** Several EXCO members and volunteers are involved. The core work here is: (a) collaboration with the Community Police Forum (CPF) and its Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) infrastructure, and (b) engaging with all parties connected to homelessness, street people, rough sleepers and squatting issues. **Eugene Loftus** engages this network of issues, agencies, and actors and takes a pastoral interest in the homeless and supports a social club for seniors.

**Clive Holder**, Alex Jongens (STCA), and volunteers **Di Ruthenberg** and **Mark Lockyer** participate in a newly formed Simon's Town Central NHW to keep our high street and surrounding areas clean, calm and safe, especially during evening business hours. The team of volunteers now know the people and trouble spots involved and encourage good respectful behaviour. Volunteers include: Trish Inggs, Louise Paterson, Jenny & Andrew Rogers, Damian Leipert, Igshaan Amlay, Sean Dayton, Jan Viljoen, Bronwyn Bagley and Jacques Roosendal.

**The NHW requires more volunteers to keep it going. Please contact us if you have 1 hour to spare per week.**



NHW volunteer: Trish Inggs with son-in-law Matt Dees.