

Once a mum - always a mum

HUMPTY DUMPTY'S MOTHER: "Humpty, if I've told you once, I've told you a hundred times not to sit on that wall. But would you listen to me?"

MICHELANGELO'S MOTHER: "Why can't you draw on the walls like the other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

NAPOLEON'S MOTHER: "All right Napoleon. Take your hand out of there and let me see what you're hiding!"

MONA LISA'S MOTHER: "After all that money your father and I spent on braces. Mona, is that the biggest smile you can give us?"

ALBERT EINSTEIN'S MOTHER: "But Albert, it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair?"

BATMAN'S MOTHER: "It's a very nice car Bruce, but do you realise how much the insurance is going to cost?"

GOLDILOCK'S MOTHER: "I've got a bill here for a broken chair from the Bear family. Do you know anything about this Goldie?"

LITTLE MISS MUFFET'S MOTHER: "All I've got to say is, if you don't get off your tuffet and start cleaning your room, there'll be a lot more spiders around here!"

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOTHER: "The next time I catch you throwing money across the river, you can kiss your allowance goodbye!"

CUSTER'S MOTHER: "Now George, remember what I told you, don't go biting off more than you can chew!"

JONAH'S MOTHER: "That's a nice story Jonah. Now tell me where you've really been for the last three days."

SUPERMAN'S MOTHER: "Clark, your father and I have discussed it, and we've decided you can have your own telephone booth."

THOMAS EDISON'S MOTHER: "Of course I'm proud of your inventions Thomas, now turn off that light and get to bed!"

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY 11TH MAY





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A warm welcome to Annette and Fritz Snyckers who have moved into unit 75



3rd Henk Pienaar

5th Robin Carter

6th Charles Harrod

7th David Draude





10th Yvonne Jackman 10th Jo Nixon 15th John Bester 21st Elda Diana-Oliaro

Happy Birthday

A very happy anniversary to

1st Dawn and Colin Osbourne

5th Janine and Adrian Fuller

19th Heather and Trevor Honeysett

27th Felicity and David Walker











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SAVE THE SPECIES—THE LEGAL BATTLES

120 Months away from extinction in the wild by 2035



(Photo Marina Hall)

6 Colonies house 90% of the African penguin populations

West Coast – Dassen Island & Robben Island

South Coast - Dyer Island & Stony Point

East Cost - St. Croix & Bird Island

Ship-to-ship bunkering (refuelling) can cause oil spills



SANCCOB saves seabirds! Sometimes they need to go more than the extra mile.

Generally speaking, most people and animal orientated charities just have

fundraising to contend with and then use those proceeds to do their good work. In SANCCOB's case they have an additional battle to fight to protect their beneficiaries the penguins and other marine birds. COSTLY LEGAL BATTLES!

On a regular basis SANCCOB has to advocate for the seabirds, in particular the vulnerable and now critically endangered African penguins. What sort of legal battles are we talking about?

One issue revolves around the banning of commercial and private fishing around the 6 colonies where the penguins breed. The other issue that pops up from time to time is the prevention of "ship to ship" bunkering near the penguin breeding colonies. Bunkering is the process where ships transfer fuel from one to the other offshore and in this process a certain amount of oil spill can happen.

Oil pollution is devastating for penguins as it coats their feathers and given the nature of oil, it does not wash off in water but clings to their feathers that end up matting, separating, affecting the waterproofing and causing hypothermia (cold) or even hyperthermia (overheating). It can also be deadly as oil ingested can poison them or lower their hormones and thus impact breeding at the other extreme end. Oil on their bodies will not only hamper their ability to float but also their ability to control their body temperature. As a result, they don't get into the water to search for food and starve.

SANCCOB collects oiled birds and takes them to their sanctuaries for specialised, labour intensive treatment to rid the penguins of the oil. This is an involved process where the birds are rinsed to loosen the oil sticking to their feathers, thereafter they washed with dishwashing detergent and rinsed with warm water, about four or five times. Toothbrushes are used to clean the delicate areas of the penguins. They get a final rinse of warm water until the oil is gone. Heat lamps or dryers are used to dry them and then the birds are kept in water tanks until they have regrown their waterproof layer and are well enough to be released back into nature. During the process, ill birds might need medication, and they might need to be fed. A very labour intensive and costly process that must be hugely stressful for the birds!



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Oiling causes hypothermia (cold) & hyperthermia (overheating) in seabirds



Lewis Pugh, human polar bear and the United Nations Patron of the Oceans, has said "Sadly, we will not be able to save every bird. But we can still give this beloved South African species a fighting chance."

In March 2024 SANCCOB reported that 100 Cape gannets on Bird Island in Algoa Bay were oiled with an oily substance smelling of fish (suspected fish oil). While this oil was not toxic for these birds, it still broke down the structure of their feathers, affected the waterproofing and meant they could not fly or swim and would eventually die of starvation or dehydration.

Right from 1968 when following an oil spill, Alethea Westphal took oiled penguins to her home in Claremont to treat them, SANCCOB has been at the forefront of oiled wildlife responses. One of 10 member organisations belonging to the Global Oiled Wildlife Response Systems (GOWRS), SANCCOB is also the

main organisation in South Africa's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). SANCCOB has a highly respected oil response unit consisting of trained emergency managers, biologists, vets and rehabilitators. These people together with committed volunteers work tirelessly during periods when they need to deal with mass oiling, disease outbreaks, etc.

In 2023, SANCCOB together with the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation and others, launched an African penguin campaign called NOOW – Not On Our Watch. They sent out appeals to the public to support the "permanent closure of fishing access [ban the public and fishing companies] around six islands housing [90% of] our African penguins and to ban ship-to-ship bunkering in Algoa Bay and anywhere near colonies" as the bunkering noise pollution coupled with the high risk of oil spills pose an existential risk to these colonies. Members of the public were encouraged to submit appeals to the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) [www.africanpenguinnotonourwatch.org/email-the-minister].

This appeal also included requests to the Minister to "implement better management of Marine Protected Areas – so that penguins can breed in peace" and "for government agencies to prioritise penguin conservation..." and "role-players work together to implement the current Biodiversity Management Plan" and lastly an appeal to "stop the SA Navy from using live ammunition and explosives in False Bay near the penguins...".





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IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

- Adopt-a-penguin
- Adopt-an-egg
- Collect Pennies for Penguins
- Donate Wishlist Items
- Donate
- Volunteer
- Advocate

The Guild's admirable support of this worthy cause means we are not merely standing by and witnessing a tragic loss of our natural heritage, but we are actively doing something to help reverse the decline in our seabirds, particularly, the African penguins. Thank you for your support Cape Town Miniature Guild!

One shudders to think how a virtual warzone must traumatise and impact these penguins. We lose our minds about fireworks affecting our domestic pets, but the public is blissfully unaware of the Navy's training activities near these sensitive breeding grounds. In March 2024 SANCCOB and Birdlife South Africa boldly started litigation to legally challenge the Minister of DFFE, who has implemented "no-take" fishing zones for a period of 10 years around the 6 key breeding colonies. While on the surface the closure appeared to be a good thing, it was woeful inadequate in size and would not have a very meaningful impact on the penguins and their food sources. They challenged the Minister's ruling in the

High Court. Updates online suggest that SANCCOB and others would like the ban to be around larger areas and permanent. They called the Minister's closures "biologically meaningless". In August 2024 the Minister issued a statement that he had "instructed department lawyers to settle the matter and secure the Penguin's fish diet for years to come."



The litigation is ongoing, and the Minister's settlement proposal is currently awaited – visit www.sanccob.co.za for more information about their work and advocacy for those (seabirds) that do not have a voice.





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A PUB EVENING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 16TH MAY AT 6PM

Books of tickets at R100 each will be on sale at the door

Please book at reception











A moment of tension in Vatican. If the bishop moves forward the queen can take him.



Mike Smith



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Old London Bridge was once the longest inhabited bridge in Europe and a masterpiece of engineering.

It was built in 1209 and stood for 600 years. Considered a wonder of the world, it had 138 shops, houses, churches and gatehouses built on it.

The well-known nursery rhyme 'London Bridge is falling down' may have been inspired by a legendary battle for control of the city, which resulted in the destruction of the bridge. In 1014 London and Southwark were occupied by Danes. The Saxon King is said to have sailed up the Thames with his ally, Olaf Haraldsson to recapture the city. According to a Norse saga on arriving at London Bridge, Olaf and his army tied cables to the piles supporting the bridge and rowed their ships back downstream, shaking the piles until the bridge collapsed.

Between 1077 and 1136 London was ravaged by eight fires and in 1091 the city was struck by a tornado. Each incident damaged the bridge. Finally in 1176, the construction of a new stone bridge was begun. It took more than 30 years to complete. Its foundations were built by driving wooden stakes into the riverbed and infilling with rubble. However, by the beginning of the 18th century, the medieval Bridge was dilapidated and was considered old fashioned. The opening of Westminster Bridge further upriver in 1749 highlighted the restrictions and limitations of the ancient structure. Its narrow arches constrained the movement of river traffic and slowed the flow of the water to such an extent that the Thames would often freeze over. In a fast-growing metropolis the narrow roadway across the medieval bridge also caused congestion for carriages and pedestrians.

The 19th-century London Bridge survived for little more than a century before it in turn was replaced, in the 1970's by the present bridge. The 19th-century bridge was sold and re-erected in Arizona, USA.

https://en.wikipedia.org





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Joan Misplon was at a Symphony Concert recently - the one section was a piece by Richard Strauss for soprano and orchestra and was one of three poems written by Hermann Hesse.

Joan found the words of the "Autumn" section (sung by a lovely soprano) so enthralling that she decided to send it to me for our Newsletter.

"The garden is in mourning.

The rain sinks cooly in the flowers.

Summer shudders

Quietly to its close.

Leaf upon golden leaf is dropping

Down from the tall acacia.

Summer smiles, astonished and exhausted,

In the dying garden dream.

For a while still by the roses
It tarries, yearning for peace.
Slowly it closes its large
Weary eyes "

Beautiful Joan, thank you for sharing





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1937 Cord 812 Convertible owned by Amelia Earhart!

Amelia Earhart (1897-1939 American aviation pioneer)) acquired this Cord 812 Phaeton less than a year before she, navigator Fred Noonan and her Lockheed 10E Electra disappeared over the South Pacific in 1937. In September 1936, Earhart was famously photographed standing with the Cord and the airplane she would ultimately take on her final flight.

Earhart was well known for her affection for automobiles throughout her life. Her first sports car was a 1923 Kissel Gold Bug that she took on a cross country road trip with her mother, stopping at various National Parks along the way. In the early 1930s, she worked as a spokesperson for Terraplane, helping launch the brand's aviation themed car line.

Her husband, George Putnam, sold the Cord shortly after Earhart's disappearance and the Phaeton passed through a number of owners throughout the decades. It was eventually disassembled and split up across the country. After decades of research, travel, and acquiring the original components, in 2004, the car's body, frame, and engine were finally reunited by collector Ray Foster who sold it to its current owner, The JBS Collection. In 2018, The JBS Collection commissioned noted marque experts LaVine Restorations, Inc., to return the car to its original specifications with a restoration that has captured numerous awards.



EVER

bergvliet

Stars of the Golden Era/FB

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PACK HORSE LIBRARIES

During the Great Depression, Kentucky women rode 120 miles a week through treacherous mountain passes, crossing swollen creeks and navigating steep terrain - all to deliver books to isolated Appalachian communities. These "Pack Horse Librarians" worked under the WPA from 1935-1943, earning just \$28 (about \$495 today).

Nearly 1,000 librarians participated, using their own horses or mules to carry books in makeshift saddlebags. They established small libraries in churches and post offices, repaired damaged books with Christmas cards as bookmarkers, and persevered through harsh weather and dangerous conditions.

When the animals died, some librarians would hike 188-routes on foot rather than leave communities without access to books. They gained trust in remote areas by reading Bible passages and brought hope through stories to places where roads didn't exist.

The programme ended in 1943, but the Pack Horse Librarians left an incredible legacy of dedication, bringing knowledge and connection to isolated mountain communities during one of America's darkest times.



A solo traveller/FB



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Five men faced death for 18 months after their ship, the Grafton, wrecked on Auckland Island in 1864. Through remarkable ingenuity, they survived by building a sturdy hut they named "Epigwaitt", crafting a working forge from salvaged materials, and even brewing beer from local plant roots.

Captain Thomas Musgrave led this crew with wisdom, establishing a democratic system where major decisions required a vote. They hunted seals and seabirds for food, crafted clothing from sealskins, and maintained strict daily routines to stay focused and productive.

When hope seemed lost, they modified their small dinghy into a seaworthy vessel they named "Rescue". Against tremendous odds, they sailed 450 kilometers through treacherous waters to Steward Island, where they immediately organized a rescue mission for other castaways.

Their survival stands in stark contract to another ship, the Invercauld, which wrecked on the same islands just months later. Poor leadership and lack of cooperation led most of that crew to perish. The Grafton crew's unity and resourcefulness made the difference between life and death.

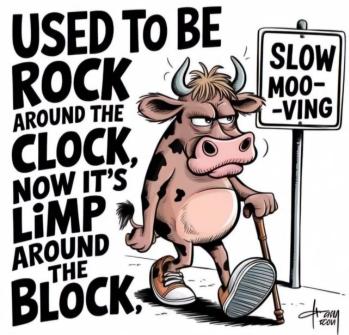
Sources: Captain Musgrave's journals, Auckland Museum Archives #SurvivalStory #LeadershipMatters





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Karin Reid



Saturday Pétanque players - image: Lynne Perry

Please keep contributions coming to flickiwal@gmail.com

Cut off date for June is the middle of May

FW

