

# The Woodstock Arms

When the first Village Management Board was established in what was at the time known as *Papendorp*, a public meeting was held to decide on the question of a name. At that time most of the inhabitants were fishermen and as they were all regulars of the Woodstock Hotel they voted for the name of Woodstock! This is one of the curious ways in which a village sometimes gets its name, but the new name was as inappropriate as the old one had been. The village grew and for a while Woodstock even became a fashionable seaside resort where the whole of Cape Town could be seen on the Beach.

A separate municipality was established in 1881 which included Altona, Roodebloem, Leliebloem and Salt River. It lasted until 1913 when the whole of Woodstock was incorporated into greater Cape Town.

Many things happened in Woodstock which could have been remembered in a coat of arms, but apparently none stirred the imagination to such an extent as the heroic performance of Wolraad Woltemade at the wreck of the *Jonge Thomas* in June 1773. It is therefore no surprise to find depicted in the upper part of the Municipal arms the wreck of the *Jonge Thomas*, on the point of going under and in the lower half the hero himself, proceeding on horseback through the boiling surf. He points pathetically to the horse's

tail, probably to remind us of the wretched sailors who clung to it.

The coat of arms sports an anchor with a dolphin under a naval crown and the motto *Per Mare Per Terras* (by land and sea).



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Parted fess wise, in chief a wrecked sailing ship with three masts, sinking into a natural sea, in base a man, arms outstretched, on a horse swimming to the sinister on a natural sea.

**Crest:** Under a naval crown an anchor erect entwined and a dolphin resting on the sinister point.

**Supporters:** Two lions

**Motto:** Per Mare Per Terras

**Colours:** Unknown

The most intriguing part of the arms are the supporters. Only one of the two lions is supporting the shield. The other lion is in too playful a mood to bother about his duties and throws his behind in the air from pure joy. Victorian heraldry was rather fond of this kind of attitude and it is probably wrong to seek too much significance behind it.